ENGLAND

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V AUSTRALIA

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH

7.45pm, Friday 27 May 2016
Stadium of Light
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £6

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH

JORDAN HENDERSON

DANNY ROSE

MILE JEDINAK

+

HODGSON

EURO 2016 ULTIMATE GUIDE

WORLD CUP '66 PICTURE SPECIAL

POSTECOGLOU

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CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

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VAUXHALL
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ROY HODGSON HAS ONE MORE GAME TONIGHT BEFORE REDUCING HIS SQUAD TO 23

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

5.50pm
General admission turnstiles open, selection of music, general announcements. Teams arrive at the stadium

7-7.30pm
Players' warm-up

7.32pm
England and Australia crests paraded around the pitch

7.38pm
Teams enter the arena, accompanied by player escorts

7.40pm
National anthems, Australia then England

Fair Play handshake, team photos, exchange of captains' pennants, coin-toss

7.45pm Kick-off

8.30pm Half-time

First-half highlights

8.45pm Second half

9.30pm Full-time

Match highlights

Kit colours
England White shirts with light blue sleeves, white shorts and red socks

Australia Yellow shirts, yellow shorts, green socks

Good afternoon and thank you for coming to support us today.

The England coaching staff and players are very excited to be playing at the Stadium of Light. The team hasn't played here since the European Qualifier victory over Turkey in 2003. Earlier this week we beat Turkey in Manchester and as expected, it was a tough game. Both sides will have learnt a lot from the match and we now need to kick on and continue to work on our preparation against Australia. That's what these matches are for.

Tonight's opponents will also provide a tough test because this is a big game for them too. My coaching staff and I chose Australia as our non-European preparation opponents because of their style of play. They have enjoyed a really successful period in recent years, qualifying for the last three consecutive FIFA World Cups and winning the AFC Asian Cup last year. We think this match will stand us in good stead for France.

We arrived in the North East yesterday with a squad of 26 players. After tonight's game I will look to trim that down to 23 ahead of the final Portugal match at Wembley next week. So this match is effectively the final chance for some players to stake their claim for the Euros.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sunderland AFC and their manager Sam Allardyce for securing their Premier League status after an impressive end to the season. There have been a number of uplifting performances in the league this year and we hope that the England players can bring this winning mentality with them to France.

I'm confident our players won't let anyone down this summer, they all want to do well. There is a good blend of youth and experience running throughout the various positions. This squad has proved itself already by winning 10 out of 10 qualifying matches and turned in some excellent performances against quality international opposition in recent months. We haven't looked to make it easy in these friendly matches - tonight will be no different. I hope we get the right result for both you - our supporters - and ourselves. Enjoy the game and thanks again for coming here tonight to back us up.

ROY HODGSON
ENGLAND MANAGER

The FA is the football governing body in England, responsible for developing the game at all levels. We're accountable for 24 England teams, including the Senior sides, six men's development sides, five women's development teams, eight disability teams and the England C Team. There are 11 FA competitions, including the world's greatest knockout tournament, The Emirates FA Cup. By administering the Laws of the Game, The FA acts as the guardian of English football, while developing its future by investing in the women's game, schools, clubs, counties and leagues. The FA also developed the new Wembley Stadium and has built St. George's Park in Burton upon Trent, a home for coaching and football development.

CUSTOMER CHARTER
In 2000, The FA introduced a Customer Charter for any customer who purchases a ticket for a match organised by The FA, joins englandfans or purchases official FA merchandise. Email customercharter@TheFA.com for details or call 0844 980 8200, option 3.

THE BIG PICTURE

ENGLAND 2-1 BELGIUM
10.10.1999
STADIUM OF LIGHT, SUNDERLAND
Even Sunderland fans can't help but admire Alan Shearer's overhead kick. The Newcastle striker opened the scoring before Belgium equalised. Jamie Redknapp won the match for England with a 25-yard screamer.

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REDS CUP-WINNERS JOIN AFTER TURKEY WIN

England's Manchester United trio, skipper Wayne Rooney, defender Chris Smalling and newcomer Marcus Rashford, met up with the squad on Monday after celebrating Emirates FA Cup success over Crystal Palace at Wembley last weekend, but it wasn't all positive news for the Three Lions.

Rashford, 18, limped off in the Cup Final after a challenge from Yohan Cabaye with 18 minutes left. He had enjoyed a good game, but was replaced by Ashley Young.

United also had to come from a goal down after substitute Jason Puncheon smashed home a 78th-minute opener from a tight angle that gave Spanish stopper David de Gea little chance. Rooney powered United back into the match inside three minutes, running into the box and crossing for Marouane Fellaini to chest the ball to Juan Mata, who volleyed home.

After Smalling became the fourth player - and the first Englishman- to be sent off in an FA Cup final in extra-time, England U21s forward Jesse Lingard was well-placed to lash home a wonderful first-time volley into the top corner to clinch a memorable victory and record-equalling 12th FA Cup for the Red Devils.

Twenty-four hours later, Jamie Vardy and Harry Kane scored as England got off to a winning start in their final three Euro 2016 warm-up matches, against Turkey in Manchester.

Spurs striker Kane, 22, put England in front with just three minutes played – his fifth goal in 11 outings - though it was cancelled out by Bayer Leverkusen forward Hakan Calhanoglu 10 minutes later – Turkey's first-ever goal against the Three Lions. Kane also missed a second-half penalty after Vardy was fouled inside the box, but the Premier League champion poked home the winner late on to make it three in his last three England appearances.

"Luckily I kicked it against his head and it's managed to go in. It's on target, so I'll take that goal," said Vardy.

"We want to keep winning as a team and keep a winning mentality going, to keep that progression going to the Euros. With the team we have got we are capable of going forward."

And Kane said he will not shirk the responsibility form 12 yards if the chance crops up again.

"I probably tried to be a bit too precise and went for more power than usual, but it happens. I'll be first to step up if called upon. I'll be on the training field working on it and hopefully the next one will go in."

Meanwhile, Jack Wilshere returned to the side following a long injury lay-off. He made his first appearance since scoring two spectacular goals in the Euro Qualifier away in Slovenia last June.

"I feel good," said the Arsenal midfielder, who was replaced by Jordan Henderson midway through the second half. "I've been back training for seven or eight weeks. I haven't played 90 minutes yet but I've played a few games for Arsenal. Every game I feel better and hopefully that can continue."

ARE YOU READY FOR THE EUROS?

The 2016 European Championship is shaping up to be one of the most exciting tournaments in a generation – and we can't wait for kick off. But are you ready?

International tournament football is an enthralling, unpredictable prospect which always generates a really special atmosphere. Our host country offers an attractive backdrop, full of picturesque towns and cities, as well as wonderful food and drink.

We've joined up with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s 'Be On The Ball' campaign, which brings together all the information you need for your trip to France.

Martin Redmond, Foreign Office, said: "We want everyone to enjoy the competition, whether it's in the stadiums; fan zones or local bars. But wherever they plan to be, it's important that supporters do the right pre-tournament preparations".

"Fans should ensure they take out appropriate travel insurance, and check their EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) is valid. You should also make sure you keep your passport safe and secure – it's your route home!

"It's important to take steps to be safe in France. Fans should be extra vigilant when in crowded areas, and follow the advice of the local authorities. Stay up-to-date while in country by signing up to our travel advice email alerts or following us on Twitter."

For more information visit gov.uk/euro2016, and follow @FCOtravel on Twitter and Facebook for the latest travel advice.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

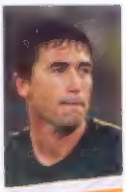
Cris Freddi provides a veritable feast of match stats and facts

In the first home game against Australia, in 2003, 17-year-old Wayne Rooney became the youngest player to be capped by England, breaking a 123-year-old record.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson changed the entire team at half-time. One of the 11 substitutes, Francis Jeffers, scored in his only 45 minutes for England...

...but Australia won 3-1. This was the last England match in which two opposition goalscorers played for English clubs: Tony Popovic of Crystal Palace and Harry Kewell of Leeds United.

In six games against Australia so far, 20 players have made their England debuts, including Rooney, Terry Butcher, Jermaine Jenas, Paul Robinson, Danny Thomas, David Hirst, and Paul Walsh.



In those six matches, the 11 goals were scored by 11 different players.

The first match with Australia, at Sydney in 1980, was England's first against a country from outside Europe and the Americas.

In that 1980 game, Peter Ward played his only seven minutes of international football, breaking a 51-year-old record for the shortest England career.

Australia's first captain against England was called Rooney! Jimmy Rooney had won more caps than the rest of the team put together.

This is the third England match at the Stadium of Light. The other two ended in home wins: 2-1 v Belgium in 1999, 2-0 v Turkey in 2003.

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Mars believes football is an important part of a healthy, active lifestyle. And I'm onside with that.

Jon, Mars Factory Technician & Just Play Coach

Since joining Mars as an apprentice 13 years ago, Jon has always been a real team player. So we were more than happy to help him train to become a football coach in his spare time. Mars volunteers like Jon inspired us to work together with The FA to create the Just Play initiative six years ago. Our goal was to give a million adults the opportunity to get back on the football pitch and play with passion. Thanks to Jon, and hundreds of other newly qualified FA coaches, we managed to smash our target two years early. That's what we call winning.

With almost 300 centres nationwide, it's easier than ever to join a local kick-about. To get involved, search 'Just Play' online.

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Raising The Bar
mars.co.uk/raisingthebar

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They thought
was all over, but
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as fans have the
chance to relive
a momentous
day in English
football history.

With a specia
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heroes, Sir Bobb
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win at Wembley

An audience
inside the arena

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RELIVE THE JOY OF '66 AGAIN

They thought it was all over, but it will soon be happening again as fans have the chance to relive a momentous day in English football history.

With a special appearance from one of England's heroes, Sir Bobby Charlton, on 30 July at 3pm the SSE Arena Wembley will host World Cup '66 Live, a unique event for all the family replaying the 1966 World Cup final to mark the 50th anniversary of the Three Lions' sensational win at Wembley.

An audience of 10,000 inside the arena, as well as more than 25,000 watching in cinemas across the UK, football fans will be treated to a minute-by-minute retelling of England's 4-2 extra-time victory over West Germany that clinched the Jules Rimet trophy.

As well as the match itself, the event on 30 July will also be a fantastic and nostalgic trip back to London in the Swinging '60s with a unique mix of film footage, live bands and special guest appearances.

The show will be hosted by BBC presenters Jeremy Vine and Louise Minchin and broadcast simultaneously on BBC Radio 2 and the BBC Red Button.

The FA will also be commemorating the memorable day with series of events, and chief executive Martin Glenn hopes they will get the whole country excited.

"30 July 1966 was a pinnacle point, not just in our football history, but as a nation.

"We're delighted to be supporting this event on the actual day England won the World Cup 50 years ago. It's one of the flagship events in a summer of activities we're either supporting or leading to mark the moment – and to look ahead.

"It's also the 50th anniversary of The FA hosting the tournament, which involved the whole country, so there's a real push to get the nation involved."

World Cup '66 Live will also be supporting the Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK in memory of the England captain who died just 51 years old.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit **www.wc66.org**

SHARE YOUR #MEMORIESOF66

Were you at Wembley on 30 July 1966 or were you watching at home? Did you celebrate the victory dancing in the street or on tables in the pub? Have you got your own special memories of the day England won the World Cup on their own soil?

If so, the #Memoriesof66 project needs you. Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Manchester's National Football Museum, The FA and Sporting Memories Network are working together to gather people's memories of the day England lifted the Jules Rimet trophy at Wembley.

There has already been an amazing response, with first-hand stories of what was a historic tournament – the first, and only to this day, World Cup to be played in England.

"My father said that he'd never seen such a distraught look on my face as at that moment, but he was confident that it would still be 'England's Day'," said Laurence Upton, who travelled to Wembley with his dad, when he remembers the drama of the last-minute German equaliser.

"We thought [Hurst's second] had gone in, but now I'm not sure – thank you to the Russian linesman. We then had a great view of Hurst running away from us and thumping home the fourth!"

As part of the #Memoriesof66 project these inspiring accounts will be used in a major exhibition opening at Manchester's National Football Museum and Wembley this summer.

Taking centre stage at '1966: The World Cup Exhibition', will be the Jules Rimet trophy won by England, and the ball from the final. The exhibition, a must-visit experience for football fans who remember 1966 and those who wished they did, runs from 25 June in Manchester and Wembley from 12 July.

If you want to get involved, you can submit memories to **www.memoriesof66.com**

PICTURE THIS

The Football Association has teamed up with Vision Sports Publishing to publish the official book to mark the 50th anniversary of England's World Cup triumph.

Titled *1966: The 50th Anniversary* and released on 11 July (exactly 50 years from the start of the tournament), the heavily illustrated coffee-table book will come in a cloth-covered slipcase and feature newly discovered imagery and memorabilia from the iconic tournament. It will be the only FA-endorsed book published to mark the event and will play a central role in this year's celebrations, which will include a calendar of events to mark the anniversary.

Jim Drewett, editorial director at VSP, said: "The World Cup win in 1966 remains England's greatest moment in football. Generations of fans can recount the names of the 11 players that carried the national team to glory against West Germany 50 years ago and we are very proud that The FA has entrusted us to tell the story of the team's epic win, and story of the 1966 tournament, the only time the World Cup has been held in England."

Visit englandstore.com

ENGLAND LOOKING TO KLICK IT OUT

#KLICK IT OUT
TACKLING DISCRIMINATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Kick It Out, English football's equality and inclusion organisation, is launching a campaign called 'Klick It Out' based around Euro 2016 to tackle football-related discrimination across social media and raise awareness of the impact of online abuse.

The rise in popularity of social media has seen many benefits, especially between players interacting with supporters, but it has also led to an increase in discrimination aimed towards players and clubs.

The aim of the campaign is to educate football supporters about the potential consequences of posting a discriminatory message, what effect it has on individuals and how users can report discrimination online.

To show the scale of the problem, Kick It Out revealed there were more than 134,000 discriminatory posts directed at all Premier League clubs between August 2014 and March 2015.

England players Danny Welbeck and Daniel Sturridge were just two of those who received thousands of discriminatory messages.

Kick It Out is urging supporters to report online discrimination so it isn't left unchallenged. Play your part this summer. Visit klickitout.org for further information about the campaign and how you can report discrimination.

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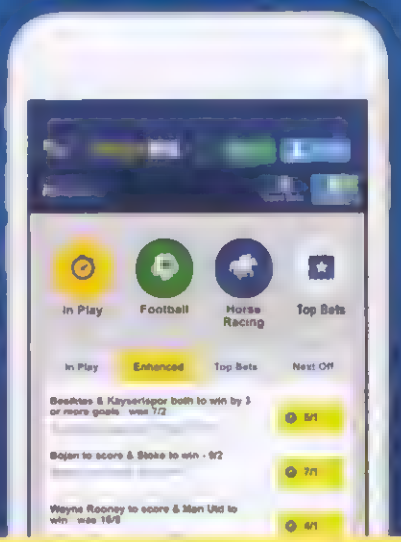

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TOGETHER FOR ENGLAND

ENGLAND

A quartet of former England stars cast their eye over the squad members hoping to impress against Australia

PETER SHILTON

The goalkeeper who played 125 times for England, more than any other player, casts his eye over the class of 2016.

FRASER FORSTER

GOALKEEPER **AGE** 28

CLUB SOUTHAMPTON

@FraserForster

Fraser has a commanding presence in goal – he's tall and well built. He makes some great saves and he's very good in one-on-one situations – I saw Fraser play for Southampton at Leicester last month and he made some terrific saves.

TOM HEATON

GOALKEEPER **AGE** 30

CLUB BURNLEY

Burnley won the Championship title and you don't win league titles without having a top goalkeeper. Whenever I watch him, he's solid and secure – think we'll an expert to see Tom a fair bit in these upcoming friendly matches and what an opportunity it is for him.

MR CONSISTENT

JOE HART

GOALKEEPER **AGE** [illegible]

CLUB MANCHESTER [illegible]

Manchester City have had a slightly up-and-down season but Joe's form has remained consistent and he's one of the first names on the England teamsheet.

[illegible] so that proves his importance to [illegible] like about [illegible] he concedes [illegible] as a goalkeeper. I know Gianluigi B[illegible] called him the best goalkeeper in the world last year, too. Hi[illegible]

MARTIN KEOWN

Former Arsenal and England centre-back runs the rule over the Three Lions defenders

THE WINNER

GARY CAHILL

@GaryJCahill

JOHN STONES

DEFENDER **AGE** 21 **CLUB** EVERTON

Roy recognises that this is a player with a wonderful talent. Stones gets a lot of credit for the potential he demonstrates, although he has had a difficult season. There are only three centre-backs in this squad, and while Eric Dier can play there, he'll probably see some action in midfield, so there is every chance Stones will be needed at some point.

KYLE WALKER

DEFENDER **AGE** 25

CLUB TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

@kylewalker2

His pace and willingness to get forward is such that he has played this season for Tottenham like a winger. Over the past year or so he has got better at staying on his feet and now senses danger. He is determined and not the sort of defender you can bully.

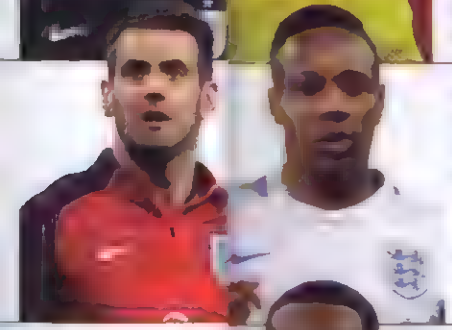
RYAN BERTRAND

DEFENDER **AGE** 26

CLUB SOUTHAMPTON

@ryanbertrand3

It must have been a close call between him, Leighton Baines and Kieran Gibbs. He has played an important part in an exceptional Southampton defence and he offers a threat going forward, although I see him as a back-up to Rose.



NATHANIEL CLYNE

DEFENDER **AGE** 25 **CLUB** LIVERPOOL

@Nathanie_Clyne

He started the qualification on the fringes - but has done exceptionally well this year to cement a place in the England squad. Although it was a close call between him and Walker, the way Clyne goes into the tournament as first choice right-back. He is very tenacious and difficult to beat.

DANNY ROSE

DEFENDER **AGE** 25

CLUB TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

He has really impressed me this season and will be full of confidence going into the tournament. He is almost like a rubber man in the way he bounces up to his feet. He jockeys very well, and I haven't seen a defender who can change direction as quickly as him since Kenny Samson.

CIRCLE OF TRUST

CHRIS SMALLING

D[illegible] **AGE**

CLUB MANCHESTER UNITED

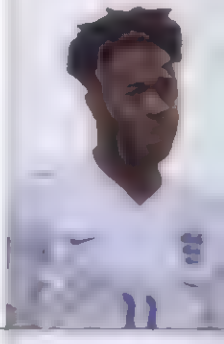
@ChrisSmalling

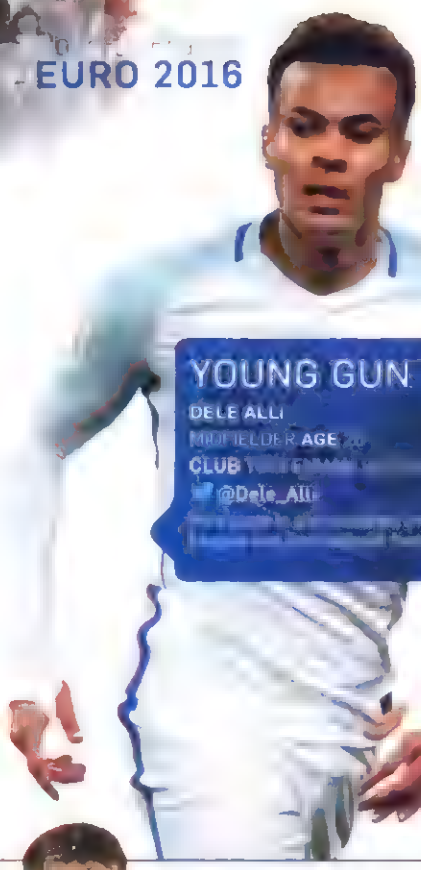
He is probably our best defender in a [illegible] strong, powerful in the air. If he continues his progress with England, and has a good [illegible] in France, he can further his [illegible]. He certainly has improved a great deal [illegible] there is a bond of trust there [illegible] tournament. His partnership with [illegible] will be key, and we'll need them [illegible] to be mentally very strong.

23.05.2016

ROB LEE

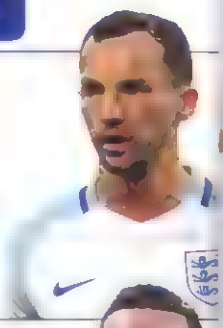
Winner of [illegible] caps and part of the Euro 96 and France '98 England squads gives his take on Roy's engine room.





YOUNG GUN

DELE ALLI
MIDFIELDER **AGE** [illegible]
CLUB [illegible]
@Dele_Alli



DANNY DRINKWATER

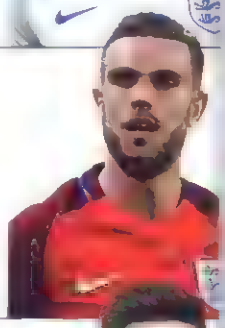
MIDFIELDER **AGE** 26
CLUB LEICESTER CITY

Another surprise package this season A natural holder, he gets up and down the pitch, tackles, breaks up play, can see a pass and even chips in with the odd goal He's had an outstanding season and it's important to have players in the squad who will carry that sort of confidence into a tournament

ROSS BARKLEY

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 22 **CLUB** EVERTON
@RBarkley20

One of our top, young players, a fantastic talent and I love to watch him Again, it's easy to forget how young he is. A big, strong lad, likes to run past people and score goals Loves to play in that No10 role, where he can use his strength and dribbling ability Reminds me a lot of Gazza, who was the best I played with.



JORDAN HENDERSON

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 25 **CLUB** LIVERPOOL
@JHenderson

Over the last couple of years, I think he's been fantastic and I think it's his job and his dream to replace Steven Gerrard at Liverpool and for England The only worry is he's been carrying a little injury recently but he seems like a naturally fit lad, so hopefully he'll be in peak condition

FABIAN DELPH

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 26
CLUB MANCHESTER CITY

A tough season at Manchester City, but might thrive next season under Pep Guardiola Left-footed so provides natural balance particularly in a diamond formation, where he performed earlier in the qualifiers. Has a great engine, can tackle, and has good passing ability but faces a lot of competition in midfield At his best, an outstanding player

ADAM LALLANA

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 27 **CLUB** LIVERPOOL

Sometimes I watch him and think 'wow with the speed of his feet and the way he goes past people He has the ability to score more goals and create more chances – a great player to come on and make an impact when the opposition are getting tired and more space opens up Hopefully Jurgen Klopp will give him the self-belief to kick on to the next level

ERIC DIER

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 22
CLUB TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
@ericdier

He's been a revelation Started as a centre-back but has moved into that holding midfield role and become very, very good at it If you're looking for someone to protect your back four, he's your man. And he's also quite comfortable dropping in to make a back three

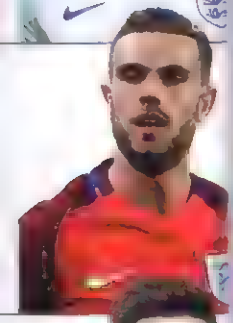
JAMES MILNER

MIDFIELDER **AGE** 30 **CLUB** LIVERPOOL

Mr Reliable You can play him anywhere and he'll do a job – although I think holding midfielder is his best position these days – I think you need someone like that in your squad. Also seems to be a good tourist a great professional, someone who won't complain if he's not in the team Nobody has a bad word to say about him and I think that helps. He has never let England down

RAHEEM STERLING
[illegible] **AGE** 21
CLUB [illegible]HESTER CITY
[illegible]

A revelation when he first got into the England squad. He has raw pace, which [illegible] the one thing you can't defend against, that's why he's so valuable to any squad. [illegible]



ANDROS TOWNSEND
MIDFIELDER **AGE** 24
CLUB NEWCASTLE UNITED
@andros_townsend

I'm a big fan. Another player who [illegible] to the international scene a few years ago. An old-fashioned winger who provides [illegible] width, has pace and is very direct. He'll [illegible] get crosses [illegible] he can also [illegible] and shoot

JACK WILSHERE
MIDFIELDER **AGE** 24 **CLUB** ARSENAL
@JackWilshere

[illegible] England's best player [illegible] Roy rates him a lot [illegible] for him in the centre

MICHAEL OWEN

England's fifth-highest goalscorer, and BT Sport analyst, gives the lowdown on the Three Lions frontline

STRIKE FORCE

[illegible]
[illegible] **AGE** 26 **CLUB** [illegible]
DanielSturridge

[illegible]

MARCUS RASHFORD
FORWARD **AGE** 18
CLUB MANCHESTER UNITED
marcus_rashford

Again, his main quality is obvious – his pace. He will expect to score whenever he goes out on the pitch so he wouldn't let anyone down. We have got a lot of options at the moment so maybe Roy can afford to be patient with him.

WAYNE ROONEY
FORWARD **AGE** 30
CLUB MANCHESTER UNITED
WayneRooney

Another versatile player who you know will do a good job wherever he plays. He has got a fantastic record for England for goalscoring and appearances and, in tournament play experience is really important as well. He is a vital member of our squad.

HARRY KANE
FORWARD **AGE** 22
CLUB TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
@HKane

One of the first names on Tottenham's teamsheet, he has developed into the same for England. Mentally I think he's a very strong player; when he went through a patch without scoring, you just knew it wasn't going to last, and he knew that as we

JAMIE VARDY
FORWARD **AGE** 29 **CLUB** LEICESTER CITY
@vardy7

When you look back at his career, it is the stuff of dreams and inspirational for many players. He runs into space, he has impressive speed and amazing energy. If England are playing against a team who are going to have a lot of possession, and we want to get on the counter attack, then he's tailor made for that.

EURO 2016

"IT WOULD BE INCREDIBLE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY IF I WAS TO PLAY FOR ENGLAND AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT"

TOGETHER FOR ENGLAND

Henderson has been an England regular since 2014

With England's visit to Wearside, Jordan Henderson returns 'home', and starting tonight would cap a remarkable rise from ball-boy to international, writes James Callow

A broad-shouldered, fresh-faced figure shuffled towards the touchline. If he had had pockets, his hands would have been in them, as he rolled his right foot over the ball with outrageous confidence, teasing Turkey defender Alpay Ozalan into a near rage. Like a matador with a bull.

Jordan Henderson had the best view in the house. He was 13, a ball-boy, and Wayne Rooney was tearing it up at the Stadium of Light.

Thirteen years later Rooney is England's captain and record goalscorer, while Henderson is among his country's three most experienced midfielders hoping to step out with his country at the stadium where he once dreamed of playing.

"It was in 2003, Turkey, and I remember David Beckham scored. He was a huge player for me and everyone loved him," he says. "I was at the academy and they asked a few of us to be ball-boys. I enjoyed it – you get to walk down the tunnel with the players and watch the game close to the pitch.

"I was just trying to get to that level. I just thought 'to play here would be incredible'."

Henderson may wear Liverpool colours these days but his relationship with Sunderland is unbreakable.

"It's where I'm from, where I was brought up, where I started my football. My family are still there and it is home," he says. "I go back to see my friends and family, and watch Sunderland play."

It barely seems credible that it is five years since Henderson moved from north-east to north-west, but ➔

as much as he is embedded on Merseyside, the Wear retains its pull

"I was really happy to see that England would be playing at Sunderland," he says

"I tend to get a good reception when I go back and the feeling is mutual. I left the club to get better and I think the supporters recognise that – we left on good terms

He had always been a player who dreamed of playing for England, rather than believing it was his destiny

"My family are football-mad but I was never really pushed into it. I just enjoyed it and was kicking a ball as soon as I could walk," he says

"My first team was Fulwell Juniors. We played in blue and black like Inter Milan. I was only six and very shy as a kid, but I kept going to training and my confidence grew. Shortly afterwards I got asked to go to Sunderland."

The Stadium of Light was about to succeed Roker Park as the Mackems' cathedral, and Henderson believed in himself, if only up to a point. But more importantly he had coaches who believed in him

"I wasn't that confident but there ➔

Black Cat to Lion: Henderson playing for Sunderland back in 2010 (left) and training with England last week ahead of Euro 2016

"TO ME SUNDERLAND IS HOME AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN SPECIAL. FOOTBALL IS MASSIVE HERE AND WE HAVE VERY PASSIONATE FANS"

HENDERSON'S RELISH

Jordan Henderson has rarely taken his eyes off proceedings at Sunderland from Roker Park to the Stadium of Light

Several players caught the eye of the aspiring young Black Cat, but it was a pint-sized poacher and Premier League golden boot winner who made the biggest impression

Kevin Phillips – they were good times," says Henderson. "Him and [Niall] Quinn up front were amazing and that was one of my best memories from when I was younger."

Phillips scored 30 goals in the 1999/2000 season as Sunderland finished seventh – their equal best finish since 1955

"He played with a lot of confidence and his finishing was top drawer. Some of his goals were brilliant. The time he spent at Sunderland was the best of his career

"He did very well at the time, and then you had players like Julio Arca and Michael Gray. That era was decent and what I remember as a kid."

"KEVIN PHILLIPS AND NIALL QUINN UP FRONT WERE AMAZING AND THAT WAS ONE OF MY BEST MEMORIES FROM WHEN I WAS YOUNGER"

are some coaches who I will never forget," Henderson says

"There was Lewis and Elliott Dickman – two brothers. I had Lewis at a very early age and he was all about enjoyment, bringing confidence into younger lads

'That's so important at that age. Sometimes some people can get too serious and by the time they get to 15 or 16 they start falling out of love with the game

"But I was fortunate to have Lewis coach me. He's a brilliant character who I still speak to now

'As I got older Elliott was a big part of my career. As I got to 15, 16 I went through a difficult time. My body was all over the shop and physically I wasn't great. But Elliott really pushed to keep me on [at the club] and keep going. I got my scholarship and kicked on, filled out in the gym and my football improved

Elliott remains a key part of Sunderland's coaching set-up, while Lewis is now working for The FA as a coach educator. Henderson also recalls the influence of Steve Golightly, his school coach at Farringdon Community Academy and then his first experience with a true Sunderland legend

Kevin Ball was brilliant, in terms of character and knowledge of football," he says of the teak-tough former Black Cats midfielder

Discipline was so important changing rooms, boots, facilities. Everything had to be spot-on before you could leave the building

It was very strict but I loved every minute of it and it really put us in good stead

I still use those morals today in the way that I think and do things not just in football but in the way I lead my life

These days Henderson relishes his role as a leader for both club and country – and makes a point of looking out for the younger players

Even when I was at school I don't like to see someone get singled out or picked on. It's not something I can ever accept," he says

From a young age I can always remember being competitive. That's just who I was. So it was all about playing with confidence

When I am on the pitch I can come across as aggressive. That's the way I am. I do change when I am on the pitch. You want to win that much – but off the pitch I'm a softy

He enjoys employing the softer side with his family, too – having two young daughters, Elexa and Alba

I find it very hard to relax at the minute! I have got two kids, aged three and one, and I never stop running after them!

You can't relax but you do switch off from football and I wouldn't change it for the world.

Tonight the ball-boy returns to the Stadium of Light as a fully-fledged international shoulder-to-shoulder with Rooney, the trailblazer and captain

To me Sunderland is home and it's always been special," he says

Football is massive here and we have very passionate fans

When I went to Liverpool I felt it was similar – how everyone was very close-knit but really passionate about football and wanting the team to do well

We have a great stadium, a great atmosphere – and it would be incredible for me and my family if I was to play for England at the Stadium of Light

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A move to Sunderland – where he hopes to line-up today – changed Danny Rose's position of choice, but also his career path

How does it feel to be part of this England squad?
It's capped off a great season [with my club]. At the start of the season I would never have thought this would be possible; Luke Shaw was heavily involved before his unfortunate injury and there was also Kieran Gibbs, Leighton Baines and Ryan Bertrand.

I'd only been playing regularly for Spurs for the last two or three years, so I thought it'd be hard for me to break into the England set-up while those four were playing so well. Bainesy and Shaw were injured in March, which meant I managed to get into the squad

It wasn't until the last meet-up in March – where I made my debut – that I started thinking going to the Euros might be a possibility. I was unsure whether I'd get the call because Baines came back fit and scored in a couple of games, so I thought the manager might have wanted to go with experience at tournament-level. It was obviously a nice surprise when I got the text last Monday.

I'm over the moon I'm here, and I hope I'll be able to make the 23-man squad, and then go to the tournament and do well

It wasn't that long ago that yours was seen as a problem position for England. Where has this deluge of left-backs come from?
I'm not sure, but obviously it's a nice problem for the manager to have. If one or two get injured, he's always got another two or three he can call upon to do a great job for England and not look out of place

There are still one or two who haven't managed to get into the England set-up, who'll be pushing us all the way. Ryan and I are here now but, if we slack off at club level or even international level, I'm sure the manager won't hesitate to replace us

If we go back four years or so, you wouldn't have even considered yourself a left-back. How has that transformation come about?
The first time I played at left-back was when Harry Redknapp was manager of Tottenham, but it wasn't until I went to Sunderland on loan in 2012 that I really got a consistent run of games where I was able to work on playing there

"WITHOUT SUNDERLAND GIVING ME THAT CHANCE, I DON'T THINK I'D BE HERE DOING THIS INTERVIEW TODAY"

That year was massive. Without Sunderland giving me that chance, I don't think I'd be here doing this interview today

It meant everything to have a club that was willing to believe in me, and show me and my family great affection, even now when I go there. I can't thank them enough for what they've done for me. For a club to give you a chance and believe in you means the world.

They treated me as if I came up through the academy system. I did really well there, winning Man of the Match awards and having the fans sing my name, and Martin O'Neill had a great impact on how I was playing.

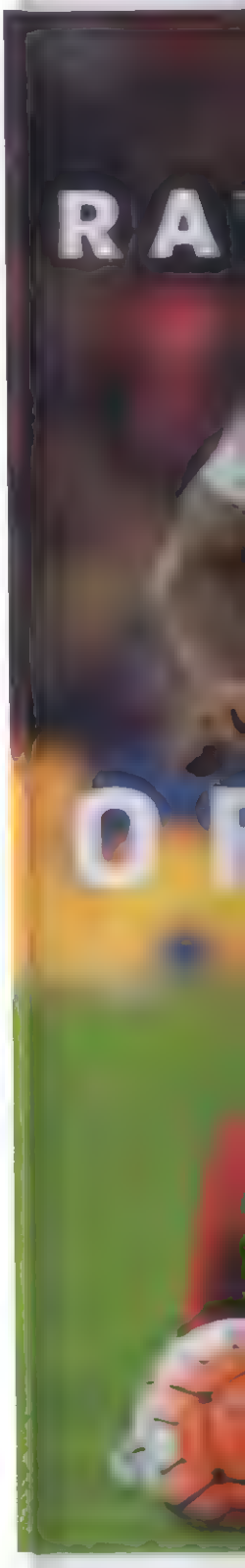
I still try to go up there and watch the games whenever I can – I went to the game against Everton where they had to win to send Newcastle and Norwich down. It's a good three and a half hours from London, but I don't think there's any other way I can say thank you to Sunderland for what they've done for me. That's the least I can do. It's something that I've done before and I'll keep doing whenever I get the chance.

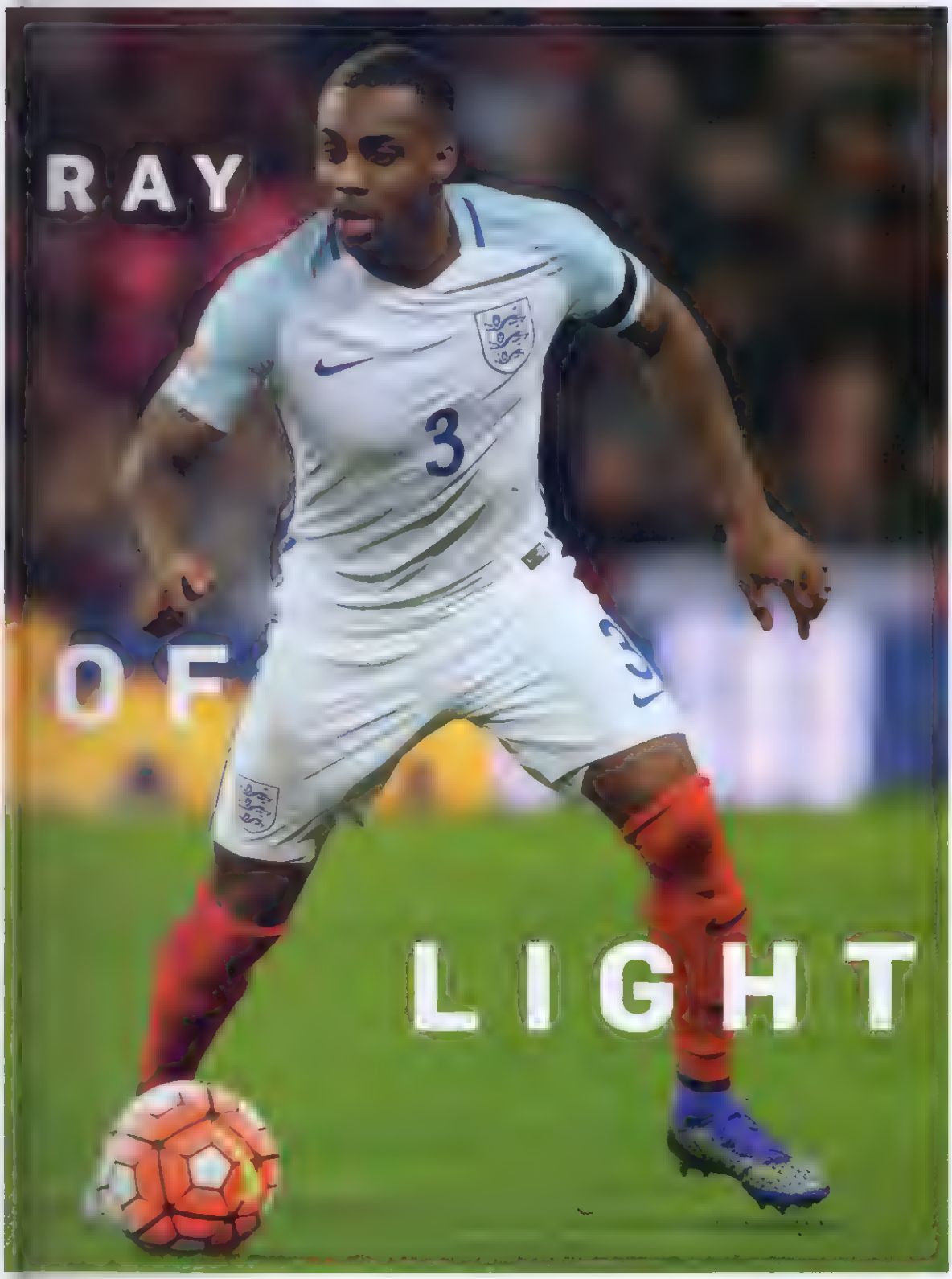
Do you wonder what might have happened if you hadn't gone there on loan?
Yeah, I went there on the last day of the transfer window – we'd been talking in the last week but I'd changed my mindset to thinking I might have to drop down to the Championship to get regular games.

Staying at Tottenham wasn't an option for me because I wasn't sure if I'd get regular football, so I'm thankful it went through because if it hadn't then I don't know what direction I would have taken from there. I'm very lucky I suppose, and very thankful that everything has worked out the way it has.

Are you looking forward to EURO 2016?
I'm not taking it for granted. There are still three places to be cut, so if you're not doing it on the pitch then everyone's places should be up for grabs. I think everybody is fully aware of that. These three games offer a lot of footballing time and the manager could change his mind at any point, so I'll be using this opportunity to do as well as I can and to continue the work I've done at club level.

If I make it, I would be over the moon. Whenever England qualified for a major tournament I spent my summer trying to tune into the games wherever I was on holiday, and it's strange to think that now I could be involved in one of them. It means the world. As an England player and an England fan, I am definitely excited to see what we can do out there in France.





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MEN AT WORK DOWN UNDER

Dominic Bliss recalls when England took a trip to Australia in 1983 for three friendlies and inadvertently started a war

A year before the last European Championship to be held in France, the England squad went on a tour of Australia, where new manager Bobby Robson hoped to find out about the players at his disposal.

It was the summer of 1983 and England sat top of their qualifying group, leading Denmark by a point. After going out of the World Cup in Spain a year earlier without losing a game, there was reason for optimism and Robson's side warmed up for their trip to Australia with a 2-0 win over Scotland at Wembley. The manager had every reason to feel confident about the health of the national team

"I've looked at players, not systems," he explained, summarising his first year in the job. "The year has been used to try to find the best 22 in the country. I would say I've now got 16 certs. I want every position duplicated by the time of [Euro '88] in France."

As part of the search for the best six players to fill those remaining slots, England arranged to play three friendly games against the Australian national team over the course of seven days – in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne – almost like a One Day International cricket series. The first game, suitably, was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and Robson used it as an opportunity to give debuts to Mark Barham, Steve Williams, John Gregory and Danny Thomas in what turned out to be a dull 0-0 draw

Robson complained that there had been little space to play owing to the Australians' defensive tactics, but the hosts' coach Frank Arok was unapologetic about his team's approach, saying: "We were the underdogs. Nobody expected us to do anything. Entertainment was the duty of England, not us."

Further discussion of those events was avoided by an England victory, gained courtesy of Paul Walsh's first and only international goal, scored on his debut at the age of 20

The fact that it had taken the two teams 147 minutes to muster up a goal between them was hardly an endorsement for the tour, but the 10,000 people who turned up at Lang Park could consider themselves luckier than those who had been frustrated in Sydney. The Socceroos also produced a few attacks of their own this time and the ambition of centre-forward John Kosmina was rewarded with cheers from the local fans

In the end, England managed a

believed it was a private session "I wouldn't have the cheek to do that to him," he said

The Yugoslavian coach, who had only just taken over as Australia's boss, claimed he was simply trying to pick up a thing or two by observing Robson's session up close.

"Suddenly this tour by England is a war," he retorted, clearly offended. "I wanted to learn. It was nothing to do with tomorrow's game."

"THE TWO MANAGERS EXCHANGED WORDS VIA THE PRESS, AFTER FRANK AROK WAS SPOTTED WATCHING ENGLAND TRAIN FROM THE BACK OF THE STANDS"

By the end of the game, the fans were left booing after seeing the Australian goalkeeper Terry Greedy scoop up back-pass after back-pass from his team-mates. It was a frustrating way to be denied, but the two managers had very different aims

In the spirit of many great sporting contests when England take on Australia, there was a fair bit of gentle sledging between the two managers, as Arok got under Robson's skin. The pair once again exchanged words via the press in the build-up to the second match of the series, after Arok was spotted watching England train from the back of the stands. Robson had

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUN

Steve Williams, John Gregory and celebrate being selected for the first time: and his new nemesis Frank Arok right, (right) the England squad in Australia

"I THINK WE'VE ACHIEVED SOMETHING. EVERYBODY EXPECTED ENGLAND TO WIN BY FIVE OR SIX GOALS"

For Australia it was a sign that they were ready to grow into a strong footballing nation, capable of mixing it with the traditional powers Robson confirmed this before returning home with what was perhaps the first utterance of that famous international football truism: "If you think this was a tour involving three easy matches just ask Francis. There are no easy games anymore."

hardly emphatic time in pointing eved d. "Everybody to win by five or h match. Instead 0-0 and gone down al. Now we'll be going y in Melbourne."

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"We tugged at the lions' tail and we got away with it," said an elated Arok after seeing his underdogs secure a second unlikely draw.

After a total of three goals across the three games and only one win for England, it had hardly turned out to be a confidence-building exercise for Robson's men. It was the start of a disappointing second year in charge for the manager as his team fell away in European Championship qualifying as well, losing top spot to Denmark and failing to reach the Finals in France

FRIENDS IN THE

When the 1966 World Cup came to Sunderland, the area welcomed competing nations with open arms

Clockwise from main: Sunderland local Kathleen Riddel becomes an honorary Italy supporter for their match against the Soviet Union

Italy fans find novel ways to avoid the harsh northern sun

Italy keeper Enrico Albertosi wards off a USSR attack

Italy fans made Sunderland their second home in the summer of '66. They saw their heroes beat Chile, but lose to USSR, at Roker Park

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1966 PICTURE SPECIAL PART 2

Keeping England
hydrated this summer.
Official Water of the England Team.
Carrick Glen
OFFICIAL WATER
Official Supermarket of the England Team.
LIDL

Top to bottom:
Fans squeeze into the terraces at Roker Park to see USSR beat Italy 1-0.

Chile's Honorino Landa executes the original hand of God to beat USSR's Lev Yashin to the ball. This one, however did not end in a goal

Yashin makes another save. The Soviet Union beat Chile 2-1 and progressed to the quarter-finals

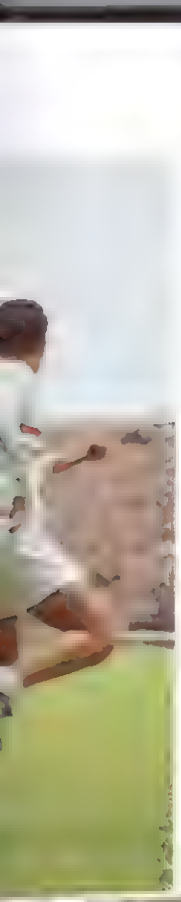
1966 PICTURE SPECIAL PART 2

1966 PICTURE SPECIAL PART 2

Top to bottom:
The Soviet Union returned to Roker Park for their quarter-final match against Hungary

The Hungarians get used to the Sunderland pitch

Lev Yashin was again pivotal as the Soviets won 2-1



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THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

ALBANIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

An away win in Portugal and an awarded game in Serbia set them on their way to ousting Denmark by finishing second in their group.

FORM SINCE

A draw against Georgia, a narrow defeat in Austria and a 2-0 win over Luxembourg have largely been notable for the number of players used by Gianni de Biasi.

STAR MAN: Lorik Cana

The former Marseille, Sunderland and Lazio midfielder (below) has now dropped into the centre of defence where he remains a tough and elegant presence.

HOW THEY LINE UP

De Biasi prefers a 4-3-3 that becomes a 4-5-1 out of possession. The Zurich midfielder Burim Kekel tends to hold in front of the back four, with Freiburg's Amir Abashi. Basel's Taulant Xhaka – the brother of Switzerland's Granit – shuttling alongside him. Ermir Lenjani, operating on the left of midfield, is often a full-back at his club Nantes while on the right there's a choice between Andi Lila, another converted full-back, and the more attacking Shkelzen Gashi, who plays for Colorado Rapids. Attacking duties in qualifying were shared between Bekim Balaj of Rijeka and Sokol Cikalleshi of Istanbul Basahsehir.

AUSTRIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Austria were hugely impressive, dropping only two points in a tough group that included fellow-qualifiers Russia and Sweden. A 4-1 win in Sweden was the high point.

FORM SINCE

The optimism of qualification has been deflated slightly by defeats to Switzerland and Turkey in friendlies, although the experimental nature of Marcel Koller's line-ups means there is no need to panic.

[illegible]

A full-back for Bayern Munich, the 23-year-old (below) operates at the back of the midfield for his country.

HOW THEY LINE UP

The basic shape is a 4-2-3-1 with Alaba setting the tempo from the back of midfield. Julian Baumgartlinger of Mainz is a more defensive presence alongside him, protecting the back four to release Alaba, who also combines well with the left back, Leicester's Christian Fuchs. With Stoke's Marco Arnautovic operating off that flank, that triangle down the left side is vital to how Austria attack. Werder Bremen's Zlatako Junuzovic, a dead-ball specialist, operates as the central creative presence behind the towering Marc Janko of Basel.

BELGIUM

HOW THEY GOT THERE

They took only a point against Wales but still won seven out of 10 games to qualify at the head of their group.

FORM SINCE

A 3-1 win over Italy boded well, but a 2-1 defeat against Portugal is a source of some concern. Kevin De Bruyne's return from injury, and late-season form, will be a relief.

STAR MAN: Kevin De Bruyne

In a team of many emerging stars, the Manchester City midfielder (below) is the most consistent creative presence, the player who knits the rest of the side together from a position just behind the central striker.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Marc Wilmots has tried a 4-3-3 but it seems more likely he will opt for a 4-2-3-1 with Radja Nanggolan operating as a creative presence deep in midfield alongside Axel Witsel. There are a host of options going forward with Romelu Lukaku, Christian Benteke and Divock Origi all contesting the central striking berth. Eden Hazard, who has rediscovered his scoring touch, and Dries Mertens are probably the two most likely wide players.

nathan Wilson casts an ex

VISION

CROATIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

ed up qualifying second group, just a point ahead of despite a defeat in Oslo in rd-last game and having a ted for racist behaviour

FORM SINCE

Russia in November mpressive and, while they were beating Israel 2-0 and with Hungary in March st t opt m stic

STAR MAN: Luka Modric

i's Barney Ronay m as a small boy as a witch, but the Real midfielder below s best deep-lying n the world

HOW THEY LINE UP

experimentation in the clies, it seems likely c will stick with saw Croatia fying. It's far however, that Rakitic and

ty is that one ut in favour of sive figure ozovic, Milan Mario Pasalic obvious There's then a to be made as to Mario Mandzukic or c starts up front.

CZECH REPUBLIC

HOW THEY GOT THERE

They finished top of what was arguably the trickiest of the nine qualifying groups, helping to eliminate Netherlands

FORM SINCE

After beating Serbia 4-1 in November, Czech Republic have lost to Poland and Scotland and drawn with Sweden although there was a sense of Pavel Vrba experimenting

STAR MAN: Petr Cech

The experienced Arsenal keeper (below) may be 34 but he remains one of the best in the world, not just in terms of making saves but projecting a sense of authority

HOW THEY LINE UP

Neat and technically good, Czech Republic usually set up in a 4-2-3-1 in qualifying with David Lafata as the central striker, but despite four times being the Czech League's top scorer, he hasn't netted internationally since October 2014. This means that there is an argument to start Bursaspor's Tomas Necid, four inches taller than his countryman

FRANCE

HOW THEY GOT THERE

The Euro 2016 hosts' seven wins and two draws in their centralised friendlies would have seen them top their group had it counted

FORM SINCE

High-scoring in their March friendlies, yet conceded twice in each game

STAR MAN: Paul Pogba

It's hard to isolate a single figure but the Juventus 23-year-old (right) is arguably the most complete midfielder of his generation

HOW THEY LINE UP

It seems likely that the shape will be a 4-3-3 but, that aside, France's squad is so strong t's very hard to know exactly which options Didier Deschamps will take With the enforced absence of Karim Benzema, Olivier Giroud or Andre-Pierre Gignac will probably start as the central striker with Antoine Griezman to the right and Anthony Martial on the left, though Griezmann himself could play n the middle. The midfield is the real strength, with Pogba and Blaise Matuidi probably flanking Lassana Diarra, although Yohan Cabaye, Dimitri Payet and Morgan Schneiderlin are both battling for places.

GERMANY

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Despite defeats to Poland and Ireland, Joqi Low's side qualified as group winners, scoring more than anybody except Poland and England

FORM SINCE

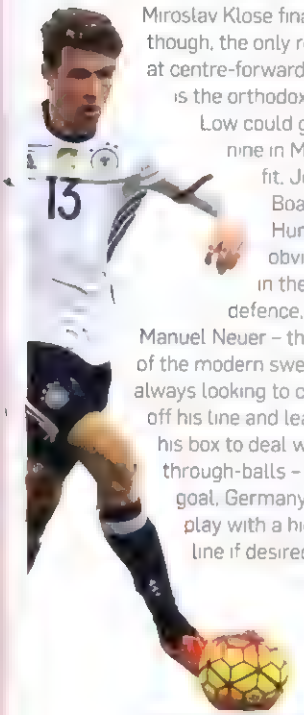
There have been worrying defeats to France and England, but an emphatic 4-1 win over Italy

STAR MAN: Thomas Muller

A player whose skills aren't readily explicable, what's not in doubt is his goals record. Muller (below) was top-scorer at the 2010 World Cup, second top scorer at the 2014 World Cup and was third-top scorer in Euro qualifying

HOW THEY LINE UP

The shape is essentially 4-2-3-1 with Toni Kroos alongside either Ilkay Gundogan or Sami Khedira at the back of midfield, Muller on the right, Marco Reus on the left and Mesut Ozil as the central creator. With Miroslav Klose finally retired, though, the only real question is at centre-forward. Mario Gomez is the orthodox option but Low could go for a false nine in Mario Gotze. If fit, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels are the obvious pairing in the centre of defence, and with Manuel Neuer – the archetype of the modern sweeper-keeper always looking to come off his line and leave his box to deal with through-balls – in goal, Germany can play with a high line if desired



HUNGARY

HOW THEY GOT THERE

They won only four, scoring 11 goals, in their 10 games, finishing third in their group, but were then comfortable victors over Norway in their play-off

FORM SINCE

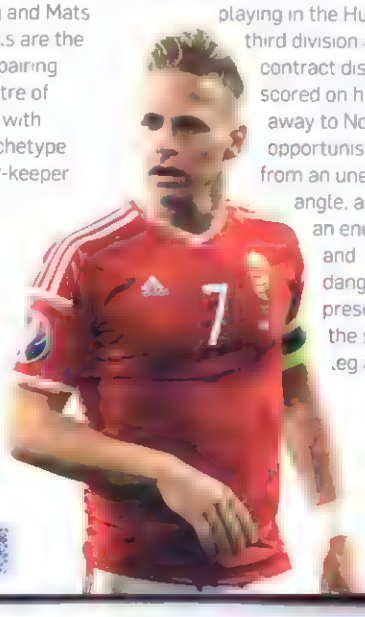
Their one friendly since qualification was a 1-1 draw against Croatia

STAR MAN: Balazs Dzudzsak

Now at Bursaspor following lengthy stints at PSV and Dinamo Moscow, the winger (below) is Hungary's most consistent creative threat. In 2010, he claimed to own the only two Porsches in Hungary

HOW THEY LINE UP

Since Bernd Storck replaced Pal Dardai, there has been a shift to a more pragmatic approach. Hungary play a 4-3-3 with the ball, 4-5-1 without it but it's the personnel who are intriguing. By his own admission Storck "gambled" with a couple of selections, bringing Tamas Priskin back from the wilderness for the second leg against Norway and being rewarded with a superb goal. An even wilder card was the selection of László Kleinheisler a 21-year-old who had ended up playing in the Hungarian third division after a contract dispute. He scored on his debut away to Norway, an opportunistic shot from an unexpected angle, and was an energetic and dangerous presence in the second leg as well



ICELAND

HOW THEY GOT THERE

They beat Netherlands twice on their way to second spot in the group and automatic qualification behind Czech Republic

FORM SINCE

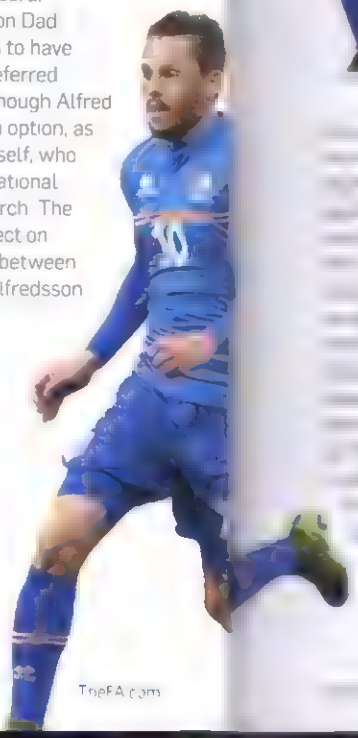
Two wins and five defeats in seven friendlies since qualification was secured is reason for some concern.

STAR MAN: Gylfi Sigurdsson

The Swansea dead-ball specialist (below) is Iceland's creative hub in central midfield. He scored all three of Iceland's goals against Netherlands in qualifying

HOW THEY LINE UP

Lars Lagerback always preferred a 4-4-2 in his days as coach of Sweden and, in partnership with Heimar Hallgrimsson, he has stuck to something similar with Iceland. Kolbeinn Sigthorsson of Nantes averages a goal every other game from centre-forward and is only seven behind Eidur Gudjohnsen's all-time scoring record. Kaiserslautern's Jon Dad Bodvarsson seems to have emerged as his preferred partner of late, although Alfred Finnbogasson is an option, as is Gudjohnsen himself, who came out of international retirement last March. The only other real select on issue is the choice between Udinese's Emil Hallfredsson and Cardiff's Aron Gunnarsson for Sigurdsson's partner in central midfield. The goalkeeper, Hannes Thor Hallthorsson, is a film director who made the video for Iceland's Eurovision entry in 2012



ITALY

HOW THEY G

Antonio Conte
their group aft
through their

FORM SINCE

STAR MA

TheFA.com

ITALY

HOW THEY GOT THERE

...nio Conte's side finished top of ...p after passing unbeaten ... their 10 games

FORM SINCE

...ey haven't won a game since ...ying, losing to Belgium and ...many and drawing against ...omania and Spain

STAR MAN: Leonardo Bonucci

...cci, who once chased an armed robber who escaped on a motorbike, offers not merely defensive solidity but can initiate attacking moves with his passing ability out from the back

HOW THEY LINE UP

At Juventus Antonio Conte favoured a hard-pressing 3-5-2 and, although he has played 4-3-3 at times in qualifying, it seems that remains his preferred mode Even by Italy's standards, there has been an enormous throughput of players in qualifying, ... so that it's hard to claim ...ody other than the ...eper Gianluigi Buffon ...nucci are guaranteed ...aces It's not even ... that three at the back ...ssarily means 3-5-2; in ...March friendlies, Conte ...ded a 3-4-3, with Graziano Pelle ...ed by Antonio Candreva and ... and then Simone Zaza flanked ...ereico Bernardeschi and ...nzo Insigne. It seems certain ... Roma's Alessandro Florenzi ... be involved in some capacity ... though as a right-wing back or a driving midfielder, it remains to be seen

NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Northern Ireland lost only once in topping a group that included Romania, Hungary and Greece to reach their first major tournament in 30 years

FORM SINCE

Three friendlies since qualifying have seen Northern Ireland concede only one goal and extend their unbeaten run to a national record 10 matches The injury that will rule out the left-back Chris Brunt is a major blow

STAR MAN: Kyle Lafferty

The former Rangers striker (below) scored seven goals in qualifying, but a lack of pitch-time at Norwich forced him to move on loan to Birmingham City to ensure he is match fit come the finals

HOW THEY LINE UP

Lafferty operates as a lone striker in Michael O'Neill's 4-1-4-1 system. Essentially, Northern Ireland operate with two disciplined banks of four looking to deny the opposition space, with Chris Baird providing additional cover between the lines It may be that, with Brunt ruled out, O'Neill ends up selecting four centre backs as his back four, which offers some indication of their priorities Southampton's Steven Davis has a key role in central midfield, linking what's likely to be a deep-lying defensive block to Lafferty Reading's Oliver Norwood seems the likeliest candidate to partner him

POLAND

HOW THEY GOT THERE

They finished second behind Germany in qualifying, but beat the world champions in Warsaw and scored a remarkable 33 goals – two more than England and nine more than anybody else

FORM SINCE

Four victories in friendlies have taken Poland's winning run to six straight games After beating Iceland and Czech Republic in November, they edged out Serbia by a solitary goal before thrashing Finland 5-0 in March

STAR MAN: Robert Lewandowski

An unusually traditional kind of centre forward, the Bayern Munich striker (below) banged in a top-ranked 13 goals in qualifying

HOW THEY LINE UP

Adam Nawalka has tended to prefer a 4-2 3-1, headed by the all-round talents of Lewandowski, who is just as comfortable with the ball played in front of him or operating with his back to goal. Arkadiusz Milik of Ajax looks likely to be the central creator operating behind him, with Jakub Blaszczykowski, on loan at Fiorentina, and Kamil Grosicki on the flanks. Sevilla's Grzegorz Krychowiak performs an invaluable role in front of the back four, with the only real question being who partners him. Wisla Krakow's Krzysztof Maczynski missed the March friendlies, handing an opportunity to the 21-year-old Piotr Zielinks of Empoli ➔

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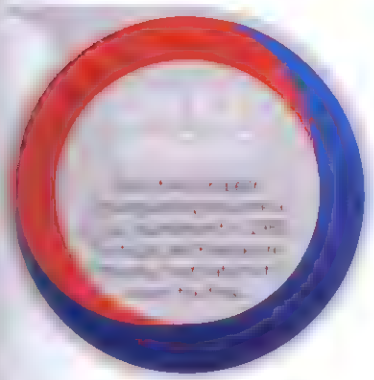
EURO VISION

PORTUGAL



HOW THEY GOT THERE

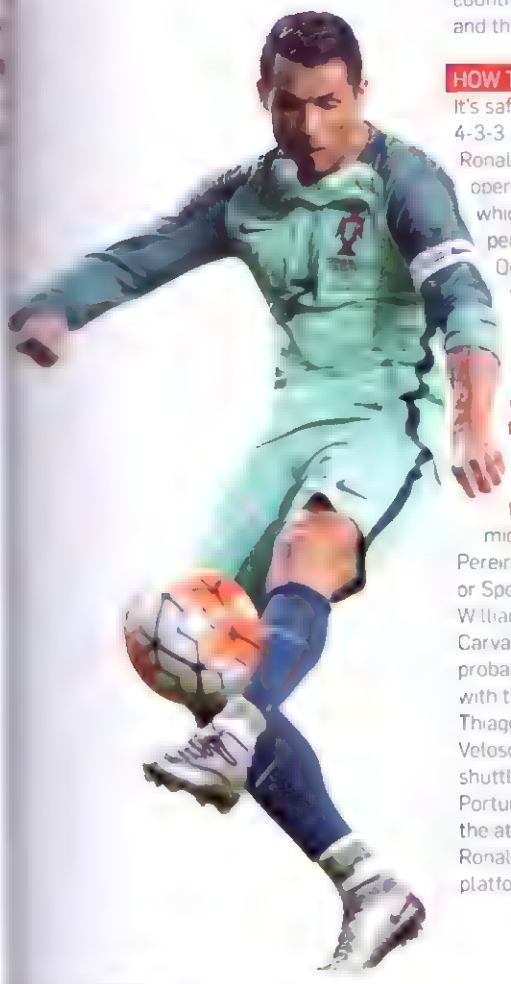
For ce Portugal didn't need a play-off to qualify They lost at home to Albania but won their oth even games to finish top of the group by seven points

FORM SINCE

A real mixed bag since booking their place in France defeats by Russia and Bulgaria but v ctories over Luxembourg and Belgium

STAR MAN: Cristiano Ronaldo

He might not be quite as prolific for Portugal as he is for Real Madrid but Ronaldo (left) is still his country's all-time leading scorer and the obvious heart of the side



HOW THEY LINE UP

It's safe to assume the shape will be 4-3-3 but what is less clear is where Ronaldo will play It may be that he operates at centre-forward in which case it's a question of perming two of Nani, Ricardo Quaresma and Bernardo Silva for the flanks, but he could be used on the wing cutting in which would probably mean Lille's Eder or Danny, the experienced Zenit forward taking the striking role Ronaldo aside the strength of this side is in midfield Danilo Pereira of Porto or Sporting's William Carvalho will probably hold with two of Joao Moutinho Thiago Mendes, Miguel Veloso and Andre Gomes shuttling that means Portugal not only have the attacking talents of Ronaldo but also a solid platform behind him

REP. OF IRELAND

HOW THEY GOT THERE

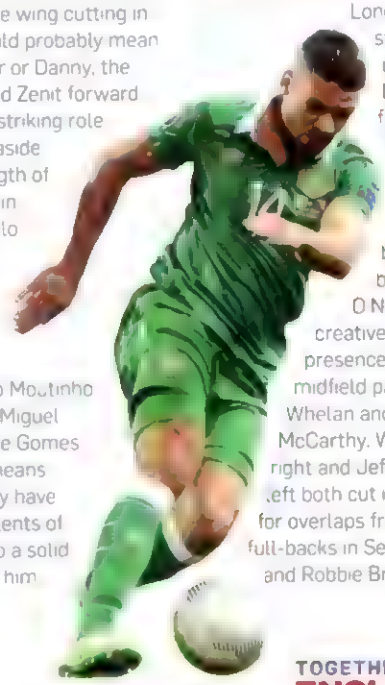
Martin O'Neill's side took four points off Germany on their way to finishing third in their group, then followed up a 1-1 draw away to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the play-offs with a comfortable 2-0 home win

FORM SINCE

A 1-0 win over Switzerland highlighted Ireland's danger from set-plays and their defensive resilience, while a 2-2 against Switzerland did much to advance Shane Long's cause at centre-forward

STAR MAN: Jon Walters

The Stoke City forward (below) has made a habit of scoring vital goals, and he got both in the home leg of the play-off



HOW THEY LINE UP

Unless O'Neill has an unlikely change of heart in an attempt to accommodate Ireland's record scorer Robbie Keane, it looks like being a 4-2-3-1, probably with Long as the lone striker – although it could be that Long is joined up front in a 4-4-2 by Kevin Doyle or Daryl Murphy Wes Hoolahan is an option behind the striker but it may be that O'Neill prefers a less creative, more dogged presence to bolster the midfield pairing of Glenn Whelan and James McCarthy. Walters on the right and Jeff Hendrick on the left both cut in, creating room for overlaps from two attacking full-backs in Seamus Coleman and Robbie Brady.

EURO VISION

ROMANIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Romania had the best defensive record of any qualifier conceding only twice in their 10 qualifiers But they scored just 11 finishing second to Northern Ireland

FORM SINCE

A draw in Italy in November followed by a win over Lithuania and a draw against Spain in March cemented Romania's reputation for defensive solidity

STAR MAN: Vlad Chiriches

A tough but elegant central defender (below) he joined Napoli from Tottenham in 2015 In the absence of Razvan Rat he captained Romania in the two March friendlies

HOW THEY LINE UP

The shape is a 4-2-3-1 that at times becomes more of a 4 1 4 1 something Anghel Iordanescu has maintained despite numerous changes of personnel. The games in March suggested the Steaua midfielder Mihai Pintilii is now the first choice holding player ahead of Hapoel Beer Sheva's Ovidiu Hoban if Romania field only one defensive player in that area They can play both as they did against Spain but against Lithuania they used the veteran Lucian Sanmartean a throwback to the days of languid dribbling No10s There's still a major question to be answered in goal where Watford's Costel Pantilimon and Fiorentina's Ciprian Tatarusanu are battling for the No1 slot

RUSSIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

After an awkward start to qualifying, Russia made it through in second place by winning their last four games after the appointment of Leonid Slutsky

FORM SINCE

Four friendlies since qualifying have brought two wins against Portugal and Lithuania - and two defeats to Croatia and France

STAR MAN: Artyom Dzyuba

The famously affable Zenit St Petersburg striker (below) banged in eight goals in qualifying "Laughter prolongs your life" he once said "I am immortal"

HOW THEY LINE UP

On taking the job Slutsky returned to the old guard and, unless new blood is suddenly injected Russia will have by some distance the oldest squad at the Euros In terms of ability and reading of the game the turbulent Igor Denisov was one of the best holding midfielders in Europe and at 32 seems to have rediscovered some of his old spark Alongside him Slutsky has tended to use Alan Dzagoev who played as a No10 at the last Euros as a deep lying playmaker with the 34-year-old Roman Shirokov once regarded as a deep lying player who got forward to score goals as the central advanced creator Aleksandr Kokorin and Oleg Shatov offer threat from wide

SLOVAKIA

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Slovakia stuttered a little towards the end of qualifying but six straight victories at the beginning including one over Spain took them through as a runner-up

FORM SINCE

The wobble at the end of qualifying looks to have been corrected and they've won two and drawn two since securing their place in France

STAR MAN: Marek Hamsik

Quick versatile and industrious, the attacking midfielder was only 20 when he joined Napoli in 2007 but has been there ever since

HOW THEY LINE UP

In eight of the 10 qualifiers Jan Kozak fielded a 4 2 3 1 Hamsik (below) is at the core as the central creator with Miran Burgic, Kucka and Viktor Pecovsky of Zilina behind him protecting a back four in which Martin Skrtel should play a central part Vladimir Weiss once of Manchester City but now at the Qatari club Al Gharafa will probably play on one flank but it's far from clear who will operate on the other with Miroslav Stoch Robert Mak and Michal Duris all in contention The 6ft 3in Watford striker Adam Nemec seems favourite for the lone forward's role but Kozak could return to the veteran Slovan Bratislava favourite Robert Vittek who scored four goals at the 2010 World Cup ➔

FROM THE
STADIUM OF LIGHT
TO LE
STADE DE FRANCE.

#Believe

SPAIN

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Defeat in Slovakia in their second game suggested their disappointing World Cup form may continue but by the end of qualifying Spain were remorseless again winning nine of 10 games to top the group

FORM SINCE

Spain beat England in November, then drew with Italy and Romania in March.

STAR MAN: Sergio Busquets

The Barcelona man (below) may be the most undervalued footballer on the planet, his selflessness and understanding of the game lubricating both his club and national sides

HOW THEY LINE UP

The days of the strikerless 4-3-3 seem to have gone, with Vicente del Bosque now preferring a 4-2-3-1/4-3-3 hybrid Busquets is likely to start as the deep-lying midfielder with Thiago Alcantara alongside him and Cesc Fabregas as the central creator. That means Andres Iniesta is pushed out to a left-sided role with David Silva probably ahead of Juan Mata in the pecking order for the right. Who starts up front is less clear-cut. Del Bosque seems to want a traditional No9, which is one of the reasons Diego Costa was brought in, but Alvaro Morata or Paco Alcacer seems more likely to start There's doubt too in goal, with David de Gea battling skipper Iker Casillas for the gloves

SWEDEN

HOW THEY GOT THERE

In a tough group, Sweden lost just two of 10 games to finish third and then beat Denmark 4-3 on aggregate in a play-off.

FORM SINCE

Four friendlies since qualifying have brought draws against Estonia and Czech Republic, a win over Finland and a defeat to Turkey

STAR MAN: Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Who else? He may be 34 now, but the striker remains the icon of the team, not just for his goals but for his personality. When Denmark fans spoke of retiring him before the play-off, he scored three goals over the two legs and then noted he had retired Denmark

HOW THEY LINE UP

There have been times when Ibrahimovic (below) has been used as a second striker, operating behind Panathinaikos's Markus Berg, but the likelihood is that Erik Hamren will go in with a 4-4-2. Kim Kallstrom's position as a deep-lying passer at the base of midfield looks secure, with either Albin Ekdal or Oscar Lewicki operating alongside him. There are options on both flanks. Sebastian Larsson's dead-ball prowess perhaps just giving him the edge on the right over Jimmy Durmaz, with Emil Forsberg and Erkan Zengan contesting the position on the left

SWITZERLAND

HOW THEY GOT THERE

After a grim start to qualifying when they lost to England and Slovenia in their first two games, the Swiss rallied to win seven of their remaining eight games and finish second in the group

FORM SINCE

They did win in Austria in November but Switzerland lost to Slovakia before then and were beaten by Ireland and Bosnia in March.

STAR MAN: Xherdan Shaqiri

A powerful cube of muscle with fine technical skills, the Stoke City forward scored a hat-trick at the 2014 World Cup

HOW THEY LINE UP

After much experimenting, Vladimir Petrovic seems to have settled on a 4-3-3 in which Shaqiri (below) operates on the right with Admir Mehmedi of Bayer Leverkusen on the left. The two full backs, Stefan Lichtsteiner of Juventus and Wolfsberg's Ricardo Rodriguez are both very attacking, allowing the two wingers to cut infield to support the central striker, who looks like being either Haris Seferovic or Josip Drmic. Gokhan Inler's lack of pitch-time at Leicester may cost him the holding role, with the option of Granit Xhaka dropping back, allowing Blerim Dzemaili to join Valon Behrami in the more advanced central midfield positions

EURO VISION

TURKEY

HOW THEY GOT THERE

After winning only one of their first five qualifiers, Turkey rallied to win four of the next five, securing their progress as the best third-placed team.

FORM SINCE

A victory in Qatar and a draw with Greece in November were unspectacular, but beating Sweden and Austria in March has raised Turkey to the status of possible surprise contenders.

STAR MAN: Arda Turan

Tough and technically gifted veteran, Turkey's captain missed the first half of the season after joining Barcelona during their transfer ban

HOW THEY LINE UP

Pundits argue over whether it is a 4-1-4-1 or a 4-2-3-1, but the basic shape of Fatih Terim's side is well established. Selcuk Inan is the deepest lying midfielder, a shield for the back four with the 21-year-old Ozan Tufan alongside him as a more creative presence. In the No10 role ahead of them is Oguzhan Ozyakup, with Arda Turan (left) to one side and Volkan Sen to the other. Less clear is who will start up front. Bayer Leverkusen's Hakan Calhanoglu has operated there, but he is more of an attacking midfielder, which means the battle is more likely to be between Burak Yilmaz and Cenk Tosun.

UKRAINE

HOW THEY GOT THERE

After finishing third in their qualifying group, Ukraine beat Slovenia in a play-off to secure their place in France.

FORM SINCE

March emphasised the strength Ukraine had shown in beating Slovenia. They're unlikely to score many goals in France but they will be solid and they are dangerous as back-to-back 1-0 wins over Cyprus and Wales in friendlies showed

STAR MAN: Yevhen Konoplyanka

A black belt in karate, the rapid, direct winger (left) joined Sevilla last summer from Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, the side they beat in the Europa League final

HOW THEY LINE UP

Ukraine's strength in qualifying was their defence, leaking just four goals in their 10 group games They s t deep an experienced back four protected by the twin shield of Serhiy Rybalka and the elegant Taras Stepanenko Their threat comes from striking quickly on the break, using the pace and technical ability of Konoplyanka on one side and Andriy Yarmolenko on the other. Serhiy Sydorchuk seems to have established himself as the centre in the three of the 4-2-3-1, with a choice for the lone striker between Stuttgart's Artem Kravets and the 48-cap Yevhen Seleznyov of Kuban Krasnodar

WALES

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Taking four points off Belgium, Wales took runners-up spot in their group.

FORM SINCE

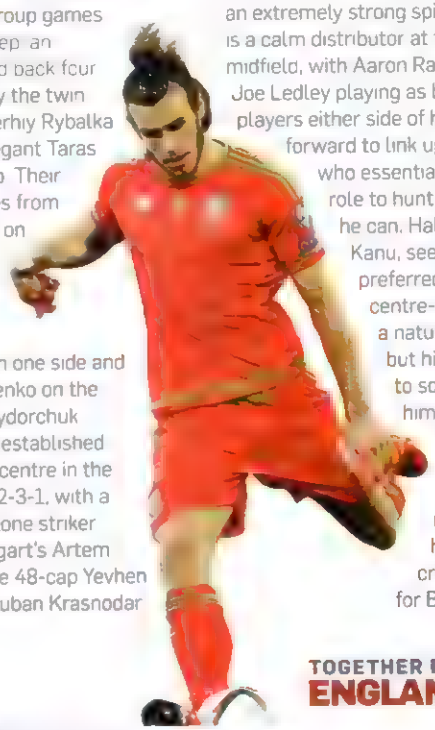
Wales were without Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey for the March qualifiers, which offers some mitigation for a 1-1 home draw against Northern Ireland and then a 1-0 defeat in Ukraine The 3-2 home defeat by Netherlands in November means Wales haven't won since beating Andorra in the final qualifier

STAR MAN: Gareth Bale

No British player has scored more goals in La Liga than Bale

HOW THEY LINE UP

As a club manager at Fulham and Coventry, Coleman fielded a back three only once. Recognising Wales s strengths, though, he has adopted the formation with great success. Ashley Williams operates at the heart of the defence, the basis for an extremely strong spine. Joe Allen is a calm distributor at the back of midfield, with Aaron Ramsey and Joe Ledley playing as box-to-box players either side of him, working forward to link up with Bale, who essentially has a free role to hunt space where he can. Hal Robson-Kanu, seemingly the preferred choice at centre-forward, isn't a natural striker, but his role is less to score goals himself than to work out to the flanks, where he is more at home, and create space for Bale (left).



THE SPOTTER'S GUDE

Keep your eyes peeled for the following in France… and get your calculators ready, writes Louis Massarella

24

For the first time, there will be 24 teams at the finals of the European Championship. Following the same format as the World Cups of 1986, '90 and '94, four third-placed teams from the groups will qualify for the first Round of 16 in Euros history. Calculators at the ready.

166

Number of caps won by Iker Casillas. Spain's captain will become Europe's most-capped international when he plays his next game (v Bosnia on 29 May). Italy skipper and goalkeeper Gigi Buffon, isn't far behind on 156.

Food for thought

Switzerland boss Marcel Koller celebrated qualification for Euro 2016 by wearing a beret and eating a baguette in his post-match press conference.

3

France are hosting the Euros for a record third time and a second time since the finals became a 'proper' eight-team tournament in 1980. Les Bleus lifted the trophy on home soil in 1984 and also won the World Cup in 1998, the last major competition they hosted.

428

Number of minutes Romania went without scoring in qualifying, but they still managed to qualify behind Northern Ireland in Group F.

Did you know…?

This is only the second time since England hosted the first 16-team tournament in 1996 that one country has hosted the Euros. Belgium-Netherlands (2000), Austria-Switzerland (2008) and Poland-Ukraine (2012) all co-hosted while Portugal flew solo in 2004.

Looking to the future

UEFA has announced that goal-line technology will be used for the first time at the Euros, after its successful deployment elsewhere, including the Premier League.

329,100

The population of Iceland (2015), by far the smallest country to ever qualify for the Euro Finals. Also making their tournament debuts this summer will be Albania, Slovakia, Wales and Northern Ireland, while Ukraine and Austria have also qualified for the first time, having both taken part as co-hosts previously.

Meet
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S GUDE TO EURO 2016

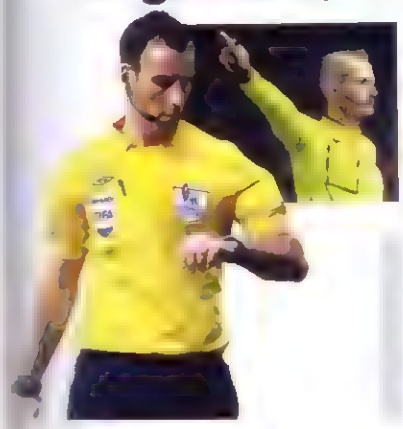
Meet the mascot

Breaking with the tradition of having an animal as a tournament's poster boy (or girl), France have opted for a young boy – called Super Victor after the name polled 48% of a public vote – with great football skills and impeccable manners

1958

The last, and only previous, time four teams from the British Isles qualified for a major tournament Scotland miss out this time, having been edged out for third place in Group D by Republic of Ireland

England 2, Rest of Europe 1



No matter how Roy Hodgson's team fare in the tournament England are already winners by virtue of being the only country to have two men on the tournament's refereeing roster: Martin Atkinson and Mark Clattenberg. Do us proud, lads

Sibling rivalry

Pairs of brothers have played in, and even won, the Euros together, but none have played against each other. Until now. On 11 June, Switzerland's Granit Xhaka – recently linked with a move to England – looks set to face older brother Taulant Xhaka, who pledged his allegiance to Albania in 2014

Derbies

England v Wales isn't the only tasty tussle to look forward to in the group stages. Switzerland v France, Austria v Hungary, Germany v Poland and Ukraine v Poland are among the other neighbouring countries who will face each other.

13

Number of goals scored by Poland's Robert Lewandowski who topped the charts in qualifying two ahead of Sweden's Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Wayne Rooney was England's leading scorer with seven.

1

Number of brand-new stadiums built for the Euros. Nice's 35,000 all-seater Allianz Riviera was opened in 2013 and will host four games this summer

→ Five to watch

Julian Draxler, Germany
Stayed just 22 days prevented the Wolfsburg attacker left from playing international football in 2015 but after returning in the 4-1 win against Italy recently he'll be looking to build on the bit part role he played in Germany's 2014 World Cup win

Kingsley Coman, France
Having impressed on loan at Bayern Munich from Juventus this season the winger – who can also play as a central striker – scored his first international goal against Russia recently. Doesn't turn 20 until the tournament begins but already tipped for great things

Michy Batshuayi, Belgium
Faces stiff competition from Romelu Lukaku, Divock Origi and Christian Benteke but two goals in two games for Belgium gives an indication of the promise of the 22-year-old striker right now who has been prolific for Marseille this season

Yevhen Konoplyanka, Ukraine
At 26 Konoplyanka is already Ukraine's main man. Turned down a move to the Premier League last summer to join Sevilla but a good tournament and clubs may trigger his €40 million release clause

Aritz Aduriz, Spain
At 35 the Basque targetman must have thought his shot at international glory was gone but he was recalled after a five-year absence recently and looks set to grab his chance. A real life fairytale

"ENGLAND SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT WINNING EURO 2016"

With Euro 2016 around the corner, Kevin Palmer canvassed the views of some of the greats of the English game

GLENN HODDLE

(England manager 1996-99)

Things have started to fall into place for Roy Hodgson in the last few months. That has to fuel his belief going into the Euros

Harry Kane, Dele Alli and the Tottenham boys have been a breath of fresh air in the Premier League and they can now give England something a bit different. I still think there is a role for the experienced players like Wayne Rooney in the squad and it is great to see that we have some bright young players coming through pushing for starting places now

When I took England to the 1998 World Cup finals, we had a good blend of experience and young players coming through and England have something similar again now We have reasons to be optimistic

HARRY REDKNAPP

(Former Bournemouth, West Ham United, Portsmouth, Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur and QPR manager)

"England should be thinking about winning Euro 2016, absolutely. They have a great squad of players and when I look at the opposition, I don't see too much that should frighten them

Spain are not as good as they were, France are no great shakes, Germany have had a few problems since they won the World Cup, so England should go into the finals believing they can win it

I'd be very disappointed if we didn't get to at least the semi-finals, even though I get the impression in the media and among some fans that they are not as confident as I am about this squad Roy has to call upon.

We have a set of players there that will serve us well for years to come and these Euros are not coming too soon for them, not at all. We should do well

MICHAEL OWEN

(Scorer of 40 goals in 89 appearances for England)

"I think England have a great chance to do well at Euro 2016. The players that have come through in the Premier League this season are all in great form and I like what I see from players like Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Jamie Vardy

Kane has to start for me as he gives England's attack the kind of exciting edge we have not seen for a while. Wayne Rooney can still have an impact and it may be that one of those three forwards starts on the bench which will leave a great option for Roy Hodgson to have at his disposal when legs are tiring late in a game.

The win in Germany was fantastic. That has to give us encouragement going into Euro 2016. I don't know if we can win it, but England can have a much better tournament than they have had in recent years.

"I LIKE WHAT I SEE FROM PLAYERS LIKE HARRY KANE, DELE ALLI AND JAMIE VARDY"

STEVE McMANAMAN

(37 England caps and played at Euro '96 and Euro 2000)

It looks like we have an exciting team heading into Euro 2016. The influence of the Tottenham lads is a huge plus for us, with players like Harry Kane and Dele Alli offering the kind of attacking flair we haven't had for a while in the England team. We also have a team with a bit of pace and that's so important in the modern game.

What we all want to see is England playing with the same flair they showed against Germany in March when the big tournament gets under way. That performance against the world champions was everything we want to see from an England team. Go out to France and perform like that please lads.

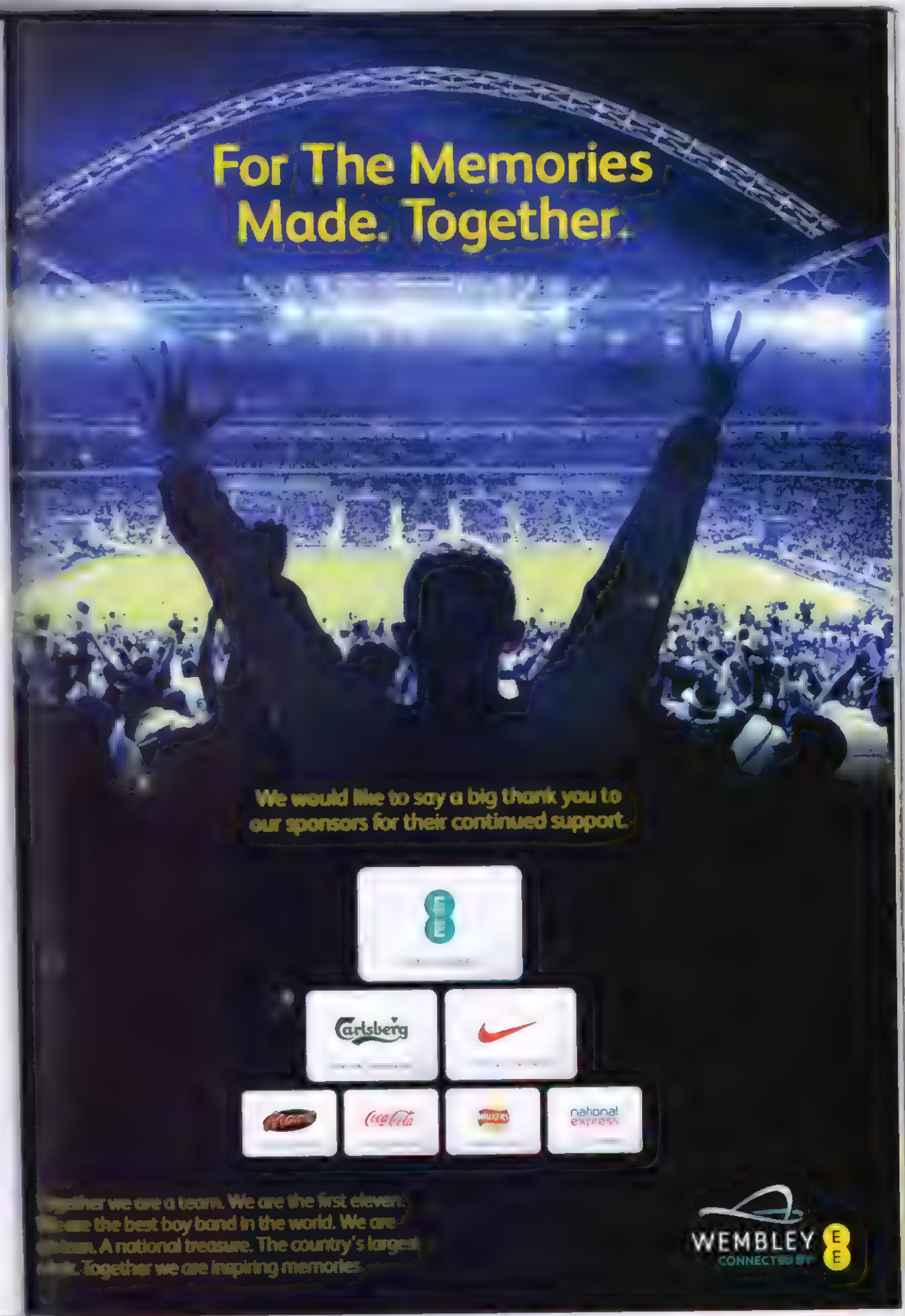
DAVID PLATT

(Former England captain with 62 caps)

I don't see why England shouldn't do very well at Euro 2016. It has been a trait for us to hype up our team a little too much ahead of some tournaments, but we have some good talent in the squad now, young talent as well.

We should be aiming to get to the quarter-finals and when you reach that stage of a major tournament, games tend to be decided by the smallest of margins. Looking back to our run in the 1990 World Cup, we were very nearly knocked out by Cameroon in the quarter-finals and then should have beaten Germany in the semis. England should go into every tournament believing we can win it and I'm sure Roy will have his players thinking like that.

"THAT PERFORMANCE AGAINST GERMANY WAS EVERYTHING WE WANT TO SEE FROM ENGLAND"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A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON

Former Mackem and Australia coach Jimmy Shoulder returns to Sunderland tonight knowing he can't lose whatever the score, writes Sunderland AFC historian and publications editor Rob Mason

The rise of this evening's visitors as a footballing nation is testament to the hard work of many, not least former Sunderland full-back Jimmy Shoulder. The Englishman was heavily involved in the development of the game in Australia 40 years ago and even took charge of the Socceroos in a friendly in Sunderland.

"When I brought Australia here in 1976, football in Australia was largely part-time, with every state having its own league," says Shoulder, who is now 69 and a committee member of the Sunderland Former Players' Association. He explains: "Australia started a national league in 1977. This unified teams from around the country and it became full-time. Over the years that gradually strengthened, and it's only in the last 10 years or so that the domestic league has reached a standard where players are able to go straight into the national team.

"The other big change was that in 1980 the government set up an Institute of Sport, along the lines of what had been done in East Germany. Through some shrewd politicking, football was included as one of the sports and I was recruited to head up that programme."

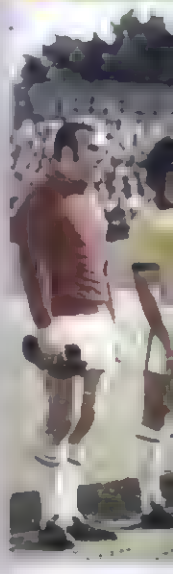
Using his connections, Shoulder fixed up games against Bob Stokoe's Sunderland in Sydney and Melbourne six months prior to bringing Australia to England. In the first of those games, the Wearsiders ran out 4-3 winners but six days later Shoulder's side earned a goalless draw. While he enjoyed those games, bringing Australia to Sunderland was even more special. "It was very nostalgic to be back at Roker Park, but to be back as a manager was astonishing, especially as I was only 29. The fact that I was coming back to my old club in charge of an exotic national team was even more amazing.

"It was the penult mate game of a tour that had begun in Jakarta in Indonesia. We played in Singapore, Hong Kong, Beijing, Tel Aviv, Hamburg, Eindhoven, Sunderland and Birmingham City, who had a young Trevor Francis. All of this was in the space of three weeks.

"The game at Roker Park was on an early winter's night. We lost the game 2-0 and the fact that we kept it to that scoreline was a testament to the players. We had flown in from Netherlands, stayed near the Washington Services on the A1 for a couple of nights, played the game, taken the bus to Birmingham and then back to Australia.

"Hamburg were a top side, as were PSV Eindhoven. In an era now where they talk about resting players, what our lads did was incredible, playing nine matches in three weeks against top-class opposition while travelling around the world. It was amazing how we got through it. We had one serious injury to a lad called Richie Bell who never really played again after doing his cruciate ligaments against

"WE HAD 18 PLAYERS AND ALL OF THEM WERE PART-TIMERS. THERE WERE TWO SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PETER WILSON WAS A COAL MINER"



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(Clockwise from top left) Jimmy Shoulder shows off his shared allegiances; Bob Stokoe, who welcomed the Socceroos to Roker Park; the Socceroos line up in 1973, including captain and coal miner Peter Wilson (far right); Harry Williams, the first Aboriginal Australian to play for the national team

Hamburg, but apart from that we suffered nothing worse than the odd knock. It was a three-week odyssey I believe we had 18 players on the tour and all of them were part-timers. There were a couple of school teachers and Peter Wilson who was our captain, worked down the pit as a coal miner

"I remember Harry Williams had a particularly good game I think he was the first Aboriginal player to play for Australia. He was a mercurial footballer. He was quick but he wasn't the most reliable positionally He was a left-back which was my old position, so I spent a lot of time with him because his passing wasn't the best I tried to improve him technically and he did. In the early rounds of our World Cup qualifying games he was one of our outstanding players

We had a tough qualifying round for the 1978 World Cup finals. We had a preliminary round where we played against Taiwan and New Zealand. We won them and then had a second round home and away against Hong Kong South Korea, Iran and Kuwait. Iran eventually won and went on to play with distinction in the finals in Argentina, even holding Scotland to a draw

Our biggest game would be the one at the Olympic Park in Melbourne where we played Iran after beating South Korea at home and drawing with them away. We played well against Iran and got a penalty against them but missed it. I can see it now. Dave Harding, from Liverpool, had played Northern Premier League in England and he used to score penalties for fun, but he put this one over the bar. To rub salt into the wounds, they scored two minutes from time to win 1-0."

As a player Shoulder had been restricted to just three top flight appearances for Sunderland before going on to captain Scarborough to success in The FA Challenge Trophy at Wembley, seven days before Sunderland won The FA Cup there in 1973 Shoulder went on to make 76 appearances for Hartlepool before injury saw him move into coaching at a young age. Following a final league appearance in February '75, Shoulder took up a post in Austral a coaching ANUFC in Canberra. From there he accelerated his coaching career to oversee the national side

Shoulder has since worked all around the world including Singapore, Uzbekistan and 10 years as techn cal director with Wales Tonight, this son of County Durham will be as proud as anyone inside the Stadium of Light He said: "I'll be here with a big smile on my face I can't lose because I have both British and Australian passports Whoever comes out on top, I'll be a winner!"

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AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

The Aussies, one of the top countries in world football? Not quite. Australians love their sport but they are better known for being world-beaters in cricket, rugby, hockey netball and at the Olympics But the beautiful game actually has a long history down under Football was first played in Australia in the late 1800s and it has some of the oldest clubs in the world. It has a higher participation rate there than any other sport

Which nations influenced this early love of football? Football flourished after the Second World War with the influx of mass migration from Europe Clubs were formed by immigrants of Greek, Italian, Croatian, Polish Hungarian and Serbian heritage. Australia became a member of FIFA in 1956 and a national football competition was established in 1977 with the launch of the National Soccer League (NSL)

How come we've not heard much about domestic football there? The NSL ebbed and flowed over the decades. In 2004 it was disbanded and a new competition, the A-League, was launched. The governing body Soccer Australia was renamed Football Federation Australia and new chairman Frank Lowy engineered a move for Australia from Oceania into the Asian Confederation in 2005, ensuring more regular games at international level.

And how are they doing now? Australia have qualified for three consecutive World Cups but current boss Ange Postecoglou led the Socceroos to their maiden piece of silverware last year, the Asian Cup, and by playing an attractive, attacking style, he now hopes to mix it with the world's best.

VITAL STATISTICS

LAST FIVE RESULTS

BEST MOMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

1922	109	31-0	47
First international	Record appearances	Biggest win	Record goals

THE COACH

Australia coach Ange Postecoglou can't w... t... test his young Asia Cup champions aga... ... of 'Europe's best', writes John Davidson

Since Ange Postecoglou was appointed Australia head coach in October 2013 the 50-year old has led them at the 2014 World Cup, won the 2015 Asian Cup and overseen a whole makeover of the Socceroos, bringing in a number of young players and changing the team's style of play.

This is the Socceroos' first game against European opposition since March 2015. Will you approach this match any differently compared with Asian opposition in the World Cup qualifiers?
We approach every match with the same intent and professionalism, as we are on a journey to make a difference at the next World Cup We have high aspirations and it is important that every time we get the squad together we use the time to improve as individuals and as a team The matches against England and then Greece give us an opportunity to test ourselves against quality European opposition We will have the same attitude we took into the game against Germany last year when we came away with a draw on their turf

What is your opinion of the current England team?
England are a quality team that have qualified very well for the European Championship They have quality players all over the park and are exactly the type of team we need to be able to match if we want to make a difference at the 2018 World Cup We will be respectful but not overawed and we look forward to testing ourselves against one of Europe's best

Roy Hodgson has brought through young talent and employed a new playing style, much like yourself with the end of Australia's Golden Generation. How difficult has it been remodelling and revitalising your team?
What we have achieved over the last two years has come about because we believe in ourselves and the players have bought into the way we are trying to play our football We needed to rejuvenate the team and we managed to do that while performing at the World Cup and then becoming champions of Asia But we are not finished and will continue to improve and evolve as we face tougher tasks with high aspirations.

The Socceroos have surprised many with impressive performances, against Germany last year and at the World Cup. Are you expecting your players to rise to the occasion once again?
I'd like to think that we have moved beyond surprising people There is no doubt our players did themselves proud in all of those games but we are consistently performing well and we will work hard to ensure we continue to improve and teams start to look over their shoulders We have aspirations to not only qualify but make a difference at the next World Cup and to do that we will have to rise to every occasion

England and Australia have a long sporting rivalry. Will that have an effect on your preparation?
Australia and England do have a long sporting rivalry and it is great that this group of players have an opportunity to write a new chapter in that history It won't play a part in preparation but I don't think it has to. This is Australia v England and we're all looking forward to the occasion.

Australia famously upset England at Upton Park 3-1 in 2003. Would pulling off a similar result be one of the great victories of Australian football?
For us the most important thing is to perform well and play our style of football To just win would not be satisfying Great results in my view are in major tournaments In friendly games the objective is to test yourself against the very best so that the great results come later Significant victories by our national team should always be celebrated but since that game in 2003, we have played in three straight World Cups and become champions of Asia after making the Asian Cup final four years previous

ANGE POSTECOGLOU

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TACTICS

THE ANGE APPROACH

John Davidson asks how Australia will look to balance its burgeoning trio of creative midfielders against England

1 Ryan
5 Wright 6 Wilkinson
2 Risdon 3 Behich
8 Mooy
10 Jedinak 4 Rogic
7 Leckie 9 Juric
11 Kruse

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Ange Postecoglou has been remarkably consistent with his formations since becoming head coach of the Socceroos nearly three years ago. The 4-3-3 is the 50-year old's bread and butter, the stable line-up that he uses regardless of opponent or venue. Crystal Palace's Mile Jedinak (above) has been a key figure in the middle of the park and has been the coach's captain when available. Mark Milligan has usually been paired alongside Jedinak as a fellow defensive midfielder, although Postecoglou has abandoned this double holder approach in more recent games against Asian opposition. The boss has often decided to employ a more offensive midfielder, such as Celtic playmaker Tom Rogic or Melbourne City star Aaron Mooy, in the middle of the park to create more goal-scoring opportunities.

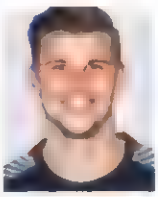
THREE INTO ONE

In the past 18 months the Socceroos have been especially revitalized by the emergence of three players – Rogic, Mooy and QPR midfielder Massimo Luongo. Postecoglou's dilemma is how to fit all of these similarly talented players into his starting XI. Each can play as a No10 or even as a false nine, but with Rogic best suited to a forward role. Luongo and Mooy can also play as an eight, and the Hoops man has even featured as a right winger for Australia under Postecoglou. At times the coach has managed to squeeze all three in but against some sides this affected the balance and cohesion of his midfield.

THE CAHILL EFFECT

Stubborn and resilient, Tim Cahill may be 36 but he has refused to hang up his boots. Australia's record goal-scorer is still scoring as well, two trademark strikes most recently coming against Jordan. Cahill has club commitments, which gives Tomi Juric and new boy Jamie Maclaren a chance to show they can lead the Socceroos' line. Postecoglou likes to use two wingers: with Matthew Leckie absent, Robbie Kruse will most likely figure on his return, and then Nathan Burns or perhaps even Luongo may be placed on the other flank.

ADAM FEDERICI
BOURNEMOUTH
AGE 31
The keeper has been based in the UK for over a decade with stints at Reading, Wolverhampton and Southend United.



MITCHELL LANGERAK
STUTTGART
AGE 27
Jurgen Klopp's No2 goalkeeper at Borussia Dortmund for three years and left in 2015 in search of regular game-time.

MATHEW RYAN
VALENCIA
AGE 24
Talented young goalkeeper who joined Valencia a year ago. A sweeper-keeper in the mould of Manuel Neuer, and is one of Australia's stars.

AZIZ BEHICH
BURSASPOR
AGE 25
An attacking left-back who plys his trade in Turkey. Behich has 11 caps for the Socceroos.

MILOS DEGENEK
1860 MUNICH
AGE 22
Played for Serbia at U19s level but has committed to the Socceroos and has made a smooth transition in his first season in 2. Bundesliga.

JOSH RISDON
PERTH GLORY
AGE 23
An A-League star, Risdon is putting his hand up to be Australia's top right-back having made more than 100 appearances for Perth Glory.

MEET THE OPPONENTS

Sports journalist and editor John Davidson casts an expert eye over a burgeoning Socceroos squad

KEY ● GOALKEEPERS ● DEFENDERS ● MIDFIELDERS ● FORWA

BRAD SMITH
LIVERPOOL
AGE 22
The full-back played for England at U17s, U19s and U20s levels but pledged allegiance to Australia for senior football.

ALEX WILKINSON
MELBOURNE CITY
AGE 31
The defender is a late bloomer internationally after making his Australia debut just before the 2014 World Cup

BAILEY WRIGHT
PRESTON NORTH END
AGE 23
A fan favourite at Preston whom he joined in 2009. Wright has now made more than 160 appearances for the Lilywhites

CRAIG GOODWIN
SPARTA ROTTERDAM
AGE 24
A left winger who can also fill in at left-back, the 24-year-old made his Australian debut three years ago

CHRIS IKONOMIDIS
LAZIO
AGE 21
One of Ange Postecoglou's project players, the winger spent half of the last season on loan at Salernitana from Serie A side Lazio

JACKSON IRVINE
ROSS COUNTY
AGE 23
Another of the young Aussie brigade, Irvine was named the Scottish Premiership's Player of the Month in March

BRAD INMAN
CREWE ALEXANDRA
AGE 24
Inman broke into first-team football with Crewe Alexandra in 2012 and bagged 10 goals for the League One club in 2015/16.

MILE JEDINAK
CRYSTAL PALACE
AGE 31
Australia's captain and the skipper of Crystal Palace. The towering midfielder is one of the green and gold's most experienced men with 62 caps.

STEFAN MAUK
ADELAIDE UNITED
AGE 20
Mauk joined Adelaide United in January and helped the club claim the A-League grand final and Premier's Plate

MATTHEW McKAY
BRISBANE ROAR
AGE 33
Mr Reliable of the Australian midfield. McKay has spent most of his career in the A-League, with a brief spell with Glasgow Rangers

MARK MILLIGAN
BANIYAS
AGE 30
Milligan plays his club football in UAE but has had a nomadic career across Australia China and Japan He made his debut a decade ago

STAR MAN
MASSIMO LUONGO
QUEENS PARK RANGERS **AGE** 23

QPR midfielder who burst on to the international stage by helping Australia win the Asian Cup in 2015 Luongo was named as that tournament's Most Valuable Player and he first landed in the UK with Tottenham Hotspur in 2011 He came into prominence in club football with Swindon Town two years later, helping the Robins to the play-off final last year Former Swindon boss Mark Cooper once described him as 'the David Beckham of Australia'

AARON MOOY
MELBOURNE CITY
AGE 25
Mooy finished the season with 11 goals and 10 assists from 26 games, and is set to move back to Europe.

TOM ROGIC
CELTIC
AGE 23
After missing the 2014 World Cup and 2015 Asian Cup with injury, Rogic has now re-established himself with the Socceroos

TOMI JURIC
RODA JC
AGE 24
Often likened to Mark Viduka, Juric made his name in the A-League with Western Sydney Wanderers, winning the 2014 Asian Champions League final

ROBBIE KRUSE
BAYER LEVERKUSEN
AGE 27
One of Australia's key players. A goalscorer and creator, Kruse assisted three goals in their 5-1 demolition of Jordan in March.

JAMIE MACLAREN
BRISBANE ROAR
AGE 22
Uncapped striker who won the A-League's Footballer of the Year in 2016 and was named in the competition's Team of the Year.

"IT IS A MASSIVE GAME... SUCH A FIERCE SPORTING RIVALRY"

Mile Jedinak is looking forward to seeing his young team-mates test themselves against a side he feels could win Euro 2016, writes Sam Pilger

In February 2003, a 19 year-old Mile Jedinak can recall getting up in the middle of the night back home in Sydney to watch Australia play England at Upton Park. It would prove to be worth setting his alarm for as Jedinak witnessed Australia beating England for the first time ever with a famous 3-1 win.

"It was great to see us playing so well and finally beating England," he says with a smile. "My old man actually flew over from Australia, especially to be there."

Thirteen years later, Jedinak is the captain of Australia as they prepare to face England – at the Stadium of Light – for the first time since that victory.

"It would be great to beat England again, because now I live here, I ply my trade here, and I'm surrounded by English people all the time," he says. "It is a massive game because there is such a fierce sporting rivalry between England and Australia in other sports, so why not in football as well?"

Jedinak would dearly love to walk back in to the Crystal Palace dressing room for the start of pre-season training in July having beaten England.

"You get that banter in the dressing room all the time, that is the one thing about the culture I really like here, all the banter with your team-mates.

"I got some stick when Australia lost in the Ashes last summer, so to beat England at football now would be brilliant, but if we win I don't think I will be bragging too much, I will let the result speak for itself."

There is an inherent confidence about Jedinak, for over the last decade he has seen Australian football evolve in to a genuine force in the world game.

Until 10 years ago Australia had only appeared once at the World Cup finals, all the way back in 1974,

> **"WINNING THE ASIAN CUP HAS MEANT WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF WHAT WE ARE DOING"**

but they are now a regular presence at the tournament and have qualified for the last three, in 2006 – where they reached the knockout stages before narrowly losing to the eventual winners Italy – 2010 and 2014.

At the start of last year, Jedinak captained Australia to their greatest football moment when they won the Asian Cup by beating South Korea 2-1 in the final.

That win has certainly given us a bit more belief in ourselves," says Jedinak. "Winning the Asian Cup has meant we now understand the process of what we are doing, and if we do it right we can go as far as we want to.

"We want to push forward, and continue to lift our standards. It is not just me saying this, it is what is asked of us, we want to get better and better."

Australia's two most recent results were resounding victories, 7-0 over Tajikistan and 5-1 over Jordan, to progress to the next qualifying group for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

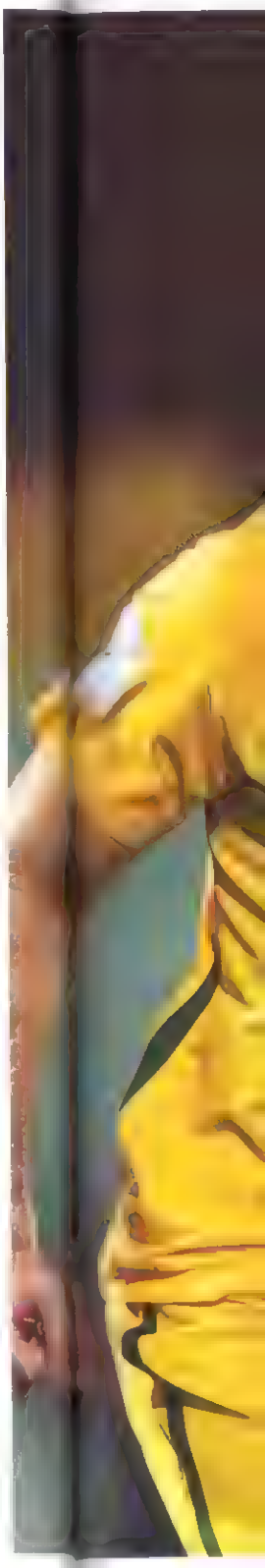
"We are in a good place at the moment. We have a really good feel about the whole squad, we have some promising new players who have been blooded, and now I think we have more depth to our squad.

There are a few very impressive young players, Tommy Rogic at Celtic, Brad Smith at Liverpool, the young left-back has been getting some game time there and he's played well for us recently.

"Aaron Mooy was over here, but now he's back in the A-League and tearing it up there. Massimo Luongo has done well in England, and then there's Matty Ryan at Valencia. There is a lot of talent in this Australian squad.

After those recent comfortable qualifying wins, Jedinak always welcomes the opportunity to test this Australian side against stronger opposition.

"You really want to go up against the very best teams, especially the way we are set up, because we feel confident about any game. We have a style and philosophy that we stick to, no matter who the opposition and to be honest we enjoy playing



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the very top teams, I think it helps to bring the best out of us."

This was shown in March last year when Australia proved their new status by drawing 2-2 with world champions Germany, a game in which Jedinak scored

We could have won. To play that well against the newly crowned world champions showed just what this Australian team can do."

Australia will get to test themselves against England tonight and their captain expects a difficult game against Roy Hodgson's rejuvenated side

I think England could win Euro 2016, I really don't see why not because they are playing so well at the moment," says Jedinak That 3-2 win over Germany in Berlin showed you just what this team is capable of

"It has been refreshing to see new players getting selected after the great seasons they have had. That is really encouraging, picking players on form

"WE ENJOY PLAYING THE TOP TEAMS. IT BRINGS THE BEST OUT OF US"

"The great thing for England is they have real choice. There is an abundance of talent, so it will be hard to pick a starting XI There are a lot of attacking options, so there should be a lot of goals in that England side

"This season I have played against guys like Kane, Vardy, and Alli, and they have got the plaudits they deserve. They are grabbing their chances in the big time "

When asked what England will know about Australia Jedinak says "I don't know if they know too much about us, to be honest. Maybe just ask them if they remember the score the last time we played England!"

Tonight Jedinak, inspired by those memories of 2003, hopes to show the rest of the world just what Australia are made of

Road to France
EURO 2016

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ANALYSE THIS

Mark Bosnich tells Steve Bartram how life has changed since the Australian international swapped playing football for analysing it...

For everything a reason. When Mark Bosnich left London for a short stint playing in his homeland with Central Coast Mariners, his next planned career move was an appearance on American reality show Celebrity Rehab. Instead a tooth abscess prevented him from flying prompting Fox Sports Australia's equivalent of Sky Sports to offer him a role covering football in England and Australia.

Eight years on, his position as an analyst for Fox remains his main occupation, along with raising his family. After emerging victorious from his public battle with addiction off the field, the former Aston Villa and Manchester United goalkeeper appreciates the stroke of good fortune which led to his career change.

It's absolutely fantastic, he says. I was very lucky, to do something I loved for years when I was playing football still feel very, very blessed and fortunate to now be making a career talking about it. It just appealed to be able to talk about something that you know well and love. If you find something you enjoy in life and you make it your work I think you're halfway there. There have been some incredible games and events I've covered. Not I would have to be Sergio Aguero's Premier League title winner for Manchester City in 2012 but there have been loads including Australia winning the Asian Cup, some great A-League finals, Sir Alex Ferguson's 20th title and of course the story of Leicester City this season. It's a joy to call it a job.

When asked reaping the personal rewards, Bosnich recalled that his role contributes to a greater collaborative effort with football making a play to establish itself in a market where Australians already have several major sports vying for their attention.

There is a massive job to do in this country in terms of raising football's profile, he admits. Obviously, the Premier League is a global brand which is very, very popular here but we've got to try to use that to try to help with the local game. There's a lot of talent out here and some of the Premier League teams, who have come here on tour would have seen that. The job is to promote the sport as best we can and we're doing that.

The work undertaken by Socceroos legend Archie Postecoglou has also been key, to the growth of football in Australia. Down under and Bosnich is adamant that the visit of Roy Hodgson's England team to play at the Stadium of Light this evening.

Australia will give a very good account of themselves, he warns. I'm pretty sure we'll be surprised because they've never played football in England before. So look out for that. I expect England to win, to be fair to them, but I anticipate the Aussies. Watch out for the style they play. It's really eye-catching.

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SCOTLAND 0 - 2 ENGLAND ROUS CUP HAMPDEN PARK GLASGOW

ENGLAND TRAVELLED TO HAMPDEN PARK FOR THEIR LAST EVER ROUS CUP FIXTURE. THE ANNUAL TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT REVOLVING AROUND THE ENGLAND-SCOTLAND RIVALRY BEGAN IN 1985, AND THIS TIME ALSO INVOLVED CHILE, WHO BOBBY ROBSON'S TEAM HAD DRAWN 0-0 WITH FOUR DAYS EARLIER AT WEMBLEY. DUE TO THE FIRST DIVISION TITLE DECIDER BETWEEN LIVERPOOL AND ARSENAL AT ANFIELD JUST 24 HOURS BEFORE, NO PLAYERS FROM THOSE CLUBS WERE INVOLVED.

WITH ONLY A BLUE KEEPER SHIRT IN THE ENGLAND KIT BAG, WHICH CLASHED WITH THE HOME TEAM'S TOPS, PETER SHILTON WAS FORCED TO WEAR A GREY AND YELLOW SCOTLAND JERSEY FOR THE GAME, THE SAME AS HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER JIM LEIGHTON, BUT IT APPEARED TO AFFECT THE SCOTTISH FORWARDS MORE.

THE THREE LIONS TOOK JUST 20 MINUTES TO GET IN FRONT WHEN CHRIS WADDLE, SPORTING HIS FABULOUS MULLET HAIRSTYLE, GHOSTED INTO THE SPACE SIX YARDS FROM GOAL TO MEET GARY STEVENS' DELIVERY WITH A PERFECTLY TIMED BULLET HEADER INTO THE TOP CORNER.

IT WAS BY NO MEANS ONE-WAY TRAFFIC, BUT SCOTLAND FAILED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES, AND WERE MADE TO PAY WITH EIGHT MINUTES REMAINING. STEVE BULL'S 37 GOALS HAD FIRED WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS TO THE DIVISION THREE TITLE, AND HE WAS GIVEN HIS CHANCE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, REPLACING FASHANU AFTER HALF AN HOUR.

HIT IT BULLY!

GET IN!!

THE 24-YEAR-OLD DEBUTANT GOT A FORTUNATE KNOCK-ON INTO THE AREA AND LASHED HOME WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT GIVING ENGLAND ROUS CUP VICTORY FOR THE THIRD TIME. UP TO THEN ENGLAND HAD PLAYED THE AULD ENEMY EVERY YEAR SINCE 1872, OTHER THAN DURING THE BREAKS FOR TWO WORLD WARS, BUT THEY WOULD NOT MEET THEIR NEIGHBOURS AGAIN UNTIL THE EURO '96 CLASH AT WEMBLEY SEVEN YEARS LATER.

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Men's Seniors v Portugal
at Wembley.
Women's U23s v Norway
at Lilleshall
Women's U18s v France
at SGP.

Men's U18s v South Korea
The first of two games at the Incheon City Stadium.

Women's Seniors v Serbia
England play at Wycombe
Men's U19s v Mexico
Women's U23s v Sweden

Men's U18s v South Korea
The second game for Ne. Dewsn p s team
England C v Slovakia
Free entry at Sutton United

Men's U19s v Mexico
The second game of the double-header at Centro de Alto Rendimiento

Women's Seniors v Serbia
The Lionesses head to Serbia
Women's U23s v USA
at Lilleshall

Men's Seniors v Russia
England kick-off Euro 2016 in Marseille, at 8pm

Men's Seniors v Wales
A Euro 2016 derby against the near neighbours in Lens
Kick-off 2pm

Men's Seniors v Slovakia
England's final group game at Euro 2016 in Saint-Etienne
Kick-off 8pm

Euro 2016
The knockout phase begins

The Men s U19s trave. to Germany for their European Champ.onship and the Euro 2016 fina.

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YOUNG LIONESSES SEAL WORLD CUP SPOT

England Women's U17s defeated Norway in the third place play-off of the UEFA European Championship this month, which has earned them qualification for the FIFA Women's U17s World Cup.

After topping their group with victories over Norway, hosts Belarus and Serbia, the young Lionesses progressed to the last four.

John Griffith's side went down 4-3 to tournament winners Germany in the semi-final, but bounced back to seal their place at Jordan 2016. It will be their first appearance at a World Cup since 2008.

The World Cup will run from Friday 30 September until Friday 21 October.

"EVERY GAME IS LIKE A WORLD CUP FINAL"

England are focusing on two important qualifiers next month on their road to the UEFA Women's Euro 2017.

After racking up three wins and a draw in their opening qualifiers, Mark Sampson's side sit second in the table behind Belgium having played a game less, but now face a home and away double against Serbia.

Serbia are breathing down England's neck, three points behind, so maximum points will be the aim.

The first game is at Wycombe Wanderers' Adams Park on Saturday 4 June, kick-off 5.30pm, with the return in Stara Pazova three days later.

In their previous qualification campaign England won 10 out of 10 to reach the World Cup in Canada, where they finished third.

However, defender Alex Scott (right) says the heights they have reached are making them a scalp for some of the smaller nations.

Gone are the days when women's football, when people look at those teams and say, 'we're going to win by six or seven'. It's not like that anymore," says the Arsenal captain.

Every game is like a World Cup final when they play against England, and it's been hard for us to break teams down.

But it's about us being patient, believing in Mark's philosophy and hopefully things will come good. We don't have to be playing our most fantastic football now, but when we reach the Euros in the Netherlands that's when we want to start shining.

Tickets for the game are on sale now, priced £7.50 for adults and £3.50 for children. A family ticket priced £15 (two adults and two children) is available and group booking and Charter Standard discounts apply.

Tickets can be bought via the Wycombe Wanderers website or by calling 01494 441 118.

UNDER-19's MEXICAN WARM-UP

England Men's Under-19s face Mexico in a pre-Euro double-header next month as head coach Aidy Boothroyd and his 24-man squad head to Mexico City.

The two games, on 4 and 6 June at the Centro de Alto Rendimiento national training centre, will give the boss a great chance to prepare his players for July's UEFA Finals in Germany.

England face Netherlands, Croatia and France in the group stage and they will be aiming for glory, as many of the squad did at U17 level two years ago.

Chelsea defender Fikayo Tomori, who previously represented Canada at U20 level, has received his first call-up for the trip to Mexico, while club-mate Dominic Solanke returns to the fold after a spell with the Men's Under-21s.

Charlton Athletic forward Ademola Lookman will also join up for the first time, after impressing for the Addicks during the last few weeks of the season.

For all the latest from the England camp, follow Twitter @England or visit TheFA.com/England.

U18s

SOUTHGATE'S YOUNG LIONS IN TOULON ACTION

Gareth Southgate's England Men's Under-21s are in action this week in the Toulon Tournament.

The 10-nation annual tournament in France began for the Young Lions – who last lifted the trophy in 1994 – on Thursday when they met three-time winners Portugal in their opening Group B fixture.

They then played Guinea, Paraguay and wrap up the group games against Japan tonight. If they finish in the top two positions they will also face a final game on Sunday 29 May.

Southgate took a 20-man group to southern France and was able to call upon some of his experienced campaigners, with 12 of those selected having played at Toulon either last year for the Men's U20s under Aidy Boothroyd or in 2014.

There were first call-ups for Aston Villa's Jack Grealish (above) who last year declared his international allegiance to England after previously representing Republic of Ireland, and Chelsea's Kasey Palmer, who has been included in Guus Hiddink's senior squad in recent weeks after an impressive season at Stamford Bridge.

Nathaniel Chalobah, Nathan Redmond and Duncan Watmore are also back in the squad after missing March's Euro Qualifier with Switzerland through injury, while a number of players are unavailable due to involvement in the Emirates FA Cup Final, Europa League final or Championship play-offs.

Former England defender Southgate said: "I'm pleased with the squad because when you think of how many players we are without due to being involved in play-offs and cup finals, there's still an experienced feel and real quality. It's very exciting and we're really looking forward to working again with the lads that have been with us a while, but also with the likes of Jack and Kasey, who are new to us.

The Toulon Tournament gives us a chance to play against different styles. It's not often in this age group you get to play against teams from Africa, Asia and South America.

We're two years away from a World Cup and some of these players have aspirations to be involved in those games. If you take a squad of 20 away to a tournament, if you're to be successful everyone has to play so we have to share that load. It's also good from a team bonding point of view.

You can follow the latest from Toulon via Twitter @England or via TheFA.com/England.

U23s

KOREA EXPERIENCE FOR MEN'S U18s

England Men's U18s have an exciting trip next month when they fly to South Korea for two games.

Neil Dewsnip and his squad will arrive in Seoul for the first of two friendlies at Incheon City Stadium on Friday 3 June. The second game comes two days later.

Having already taken in Austria, Netherlands and Republic of Ireland this season, Dewsnip believes these games will be their toughest tests yet.

And, with England hoping to qualify for the U20 World Cup, held in South Korea next summer, the journey will give some of the players who could be in contention for a place – that squad an early taste of football in Korea.

"It will be a different style and a culture for them, so our players have to learn to deal with it in the hope that one day they'll be doing it for the first team," says Dewsnip.

WOMEN'S U23s FACE NORDIC TEST ON HOME SOIL

Mo Marley says the Nordic Tournament, held at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire next month, will provide the England Women's U23 players with important experience.

Head Coach Marley will lead the Lionesses into three tough matches against Norway, Sweden and USA.

Marley says: "The Nordics are a great opportunity for players to get valuable tournament experience.

"It will also be a chance for the players to test themselves against top-level established opposition. We're looking forward to the challenge."

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE [illegible]

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

ANDRE DOZZELL

Andre Dozzell is a product of the Ipswich Town academy and follows in the footsteps of his dad, Jason, a former England Under-21 international and hero at Portman Road.

England Men's U17s midfielder Andre made his first team debut for the Suffolk outfit last month, coming on at half-time in their 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday – and he headed home the equaliser to highlight his exciting potential.

Dozzell is a graceful mover always looking to find that incisive forward pass and who poses a danger at set-pieces. He made his first appearance at international level for Dan Micciche's Men's U16s in a 4-3 defeat by Belgium at St George's Park in August 2014.

A year later he stepped up to Steve Cooper's U17s and scored against Turkey in his second outing – the first of three goals for his country.

Dozzell also captained the Young Lions during February's Algarve Tournament and was one of a trio of Ipswich youngsters in the England squad at the recent UEFA European U17s Championship Finals, where they reached the quarter-finals.

FOLLOW ON TWITTER @andredozzell99

Club: Ipswich Town

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AWAY DAYS

Committed England fan Katrina Hammond reveals what it's like to follow the Three Lions around Europe

Katrina Hammond was just 13 when she told her parents she wanted to see England play. Now 26, together with parents Christine and Tony they have barely missed an international since

They have travelled throughout Europe from their home in Clacton, Essex following the Three Lions and this summer will be in France to cheer on Roy Hodgson's side as they bid for a first major tournament win since, well, you know when

What makes Katrina's dedication to England more remarkable is that she has cerebral palsy, is a wheelchair user and is chaperoned by her parents to every game

"The last England game in Europe that I missed was the last Euros in 2012," said Katrina

"The first England game I went to see was against Slovakia at the Riverside Stadium in 2003

Katrina gets pitchside in Bulgaria

There was no particular reason it was that game, I was just a young teenager at the time and I wanted to start following England

The 2002 World Cup had inspired me to go and follow them, it all just seemed very new and I was hooked after that

My first away game was the friendly against Portugal in Faro in February 2004. I had never been to anything like it before

And my favourite memory from supporting England also came in Portugal

"We were coming out of the stadium in Lisbon in Euro 2004 We had just beaten Croatia in the last group game and everyone was singing 'we're not going home I do like to join in with the singing so I was getting involved with that – it was great.

The family have not been able to go to the most recent World Cups in Brazil and South Africa but they certainly are not adverse to boarding a long-haul flight to follow their beloved England

In qualifying for the first ever African World Cup England were drawn to play Kazakhstan a couple of times in Group 6

Undeterred by the more than

Katrina's travels have taken her from Clacton to Kazakhstan

4 000-mile journey to Almaty the Hammonds decided to make a day of it

"We fly to most of the games but we have driven to some added Katrina

Maybe the furthest we've been was when we played Kazakhstan away in 2009 - we did the whole thing in a day trip, it was a very long day to say the least

We were up and left in the early hours of the Saturday morning and then got back on the Sunday morning – it was a long journey but it didn't put me off doing it again

Euro 2004 in Portugal was the Hammond's first tournament experience following England and after Sven-Goran Eriksson's men qualified for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, the family did not think twice about getting their first experience of a global event

It was my first World Cup and everything was just on such a bigger scale, it was amazing, the atmosphere was incredible, like a big party really," Katrina recalled

France will be our first major tournament since then as we didn't qualify for Euro 2008 – I was there that night at Wembley against Croatia in 2007 and it was a bit different to the atmosphere three years earlier in Lisbon

We haven't been able to get to South Africa or Brazil for the World Cups and we couldn't do Poland and Ukraine either so we're really looking forward to France

"We're taking the car over and will be there for England's group games

We've not made plans for what happens if we qualify from the group – I'm not saying anything about how I think we might do!

If we make it through then we'll have to see what we can do. We'll have packed the car for three

"WE HAD JUST BEATEN CROATIA IN EURO 2004 AND EVERYONE WAS SINGING 'WE'RE NOT GOING HOME'. IT WAS GREAT"

weeks so we'll just have to make do with what's in the car

It's fair to say the Hammonds have fallen in love with the Three Lions, win, lose or draw

And what started out as a teenager's desire to immerse herself in her new passion has now become a family tradition

"[My parents] love it as much as I do," said the Ipswich Town season-ticket holder

Initially I was a teenager so they had to come with me but they keep coming now too – we've always done it as a family and I think we always will

Nowadays, once we've qualified and the draw is made so we know when and where the games are going to be, I'm straight on the computer working out how we can get there and where we'll stay

It involves quite a lot of saving and sacrifices during the year but the trips following England are our holidays."

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How's your football knowledge? Test your brain with our fun quiz

Q1. WORD SEARCH
Can you find all the teams at Euro 2016 in the wordsearch...

N	A	Q	D	A	N	A	I	Y	Q	S	H	A	C	D
C	O	I	Y	N	I	E	B	U	W	T	I	A	Z	N
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France
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Poland
Portugal
Ireland
Romania
Russia
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
Wales

Q2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
How well do you know your European Championships?

A The last time England won a penalty shootout was in Euro '96 Who was it against?

B France have won the European Championship twice – once when they hosted in 1984, and what other year?

C Which country has won the most European Championships?

D Who shocked Europe by winning Euro 2004 in Portugal?

E How far did England get in Euro 2012?

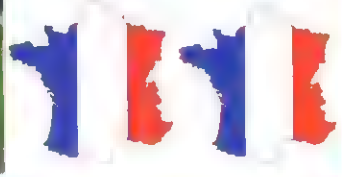
F How many goals did Alan Shearer score at Euro '96?

Q3. GUESS WHO
Can you guess the identity of the England players who have scored against Australia down the years?

A

B

C



LAST TIME OUT

England began the countdown to France with a 2-1 victory over Turkey, the Premier League's top scorers netting for Hodgson's men

Roy Hodgson named a provisional 26-man squad ahead of England's three pre-UEFA Euro 2016 friendlies, and included 18-year-old Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford who impressed in his debut season at Old Trafford, scoring seven goals in 16 games.

Jack Wilshere returned having recovered from injury in time to feature for Arsenal before the end of the season, while Andros Townsend's good form for Newcastle United earned a recall.

Hodgson will then submit his final 23-man squad to UEFA, ahead of the final pre-tournament friendly against Portugal at Wembley on Thursday 2 June.

Goalkeepers Fraser Forster, Joe Hart, Tom Heaton
Defenders Ryan Bertrand, Gary Cahill, Nathaniel Clyne, Danny Rose, Chris Smalling, John Stones, Kyle Walker
Midfielders Dele Alli, Ross Barkley, Fabian Delph, Eric Dier, Danny Drinkwater, Jordan Henderson, Adam Lallana, James Milner, [illegible]
Forwards Harry Kane, Marcus Rashford, Wayne Rooney, Daniel Sturridge, Jamie Vardy

Eighteen of Hodgson's squad arrived at St. George's Park on Wednesday, with those from Liverpool preparing to face Sevilla in the UEFA Europa League final, and the Manchester United players getting ready for the Emirates FA Cup Final.

Roy Hodgson welcomed Eddie Jones, head coach of the England rugby union team, to watch his squad training on the Friday, before their game in Manchester.

Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson linked up with the squad earlier than expected, less than two days after the Reds' UEFA Europa League Final defeat in Basel. The midfielder and his club-mates were not initially expected at St. George's Park until after the meeting with Turkey.

Sunday 22 May

England 2-1 Turkey
City of Manchester Stadium

Harry Kane and Jamie Vardy score to seal victory over Turkey in Manchester on Sunday.

Tottenham striker Kane opened the scoring early on, only for Hakan Calhanoglu to restore parity just 10 minutes later.

Kane missed a penalty midway through the second half, but Vardy netted the winner from close range with seven minutes remaining.

Turkey, ranked 13th in the world, qualified for the Euros ahead of Netherlands, and this was their first defeat in 14 matches.

It was also England's first home match away from Wembley for nine years, and it was fitting that it was in Manchester, the city that hosted a number of home internationals the last time they went on the road.

With three Manchester United players missing due to their Emirates FA Cup-winning exploits and four Liverpool players still recovering from the Reds' Europa League final defeat by Sevilla, Roy Hodgson was only able to name a 19-player squad.

Arsenal playmaker Jack Wilshere made his first international appearance since he starred in the 3-2 win in Slovenia

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last June, and he lined up in midfield alongside Tottenham duo Eric Dier and Dele Alli.

In just the third minute, Raheem Sterling came infield to find Alli and the former MK Dons star fed club-mate Kane who calmly slotted home from inside the box even though TV replays showed he was in an offside position. It was Kane's 32nd goal of the season for club and country.

But Turkey were level just before the quarter-hour mark – with their first-ever goal against England.

Oguzhan Ozyakup, who won the 2009 FA Youth Cup alongside Wilshere at Arsenal, played a neat ball inside Danny Rose to Volkan Sen, who squared for Calhanoglu to slide a shot into the far corner.

Early in the second half, just after the offside flag had denied Kane a second, Cenk Tosun swivelled and shot wide of Hart's left-hand to raise the volume among the Turkey fans inside the stadium. Caner Erkin then headed a corner wide much in the same way Dier did in the first half.

Neither side were able to build any momentum after the break although Kane was handed a glorious chance to double his and England's tally from 12 yards.

Vardy outpaced Mehmet Topal to lead a counter-attack down the inside left channel. The Turkey captain caught up with Vardy, but bundled him over inside the box and German referee Deniz Aytekin pointed to the spot. Kane stepped up confidently, but hooked his penalty wide.

However, his blushes were spared by his Leicester City counterpart with just seven minutes remaining.

Henderson's corner was headed goalwards by captain Gary Cahill. Volkan parried the ball away but was hindered by Ismail Koybasi on the line, and Vardy smashed home the rebound from a tight angle to seal victory.

"IT WAS ENGLAND'S FIRST HOME MATCH AWAY FROM WEMBLEY FOR NINE YEARS"

England (4-3-3) 1 Joe Hart (Manchester City), 2 Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), 5 Gary Cahill (captain Chelsea), 6 John Stones (Everton), 3 Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur), 4 Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur), 8 Jack Wilshere (Arsenal), 11 Dele Alli (Tottenham Hotspur), 7 Raheem Sterling (Manchester City), 10 Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur), 9 Jamie Vardy (Leicester City).
Substitutes 14 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool) for Wilshere 67, 15 Danny Drinkwater (Leicester City) for Sterling 74.

Goals Kane, Vardy 83
Booking Wilshere
Manager Roy Hodgson

Turkey 1 Volkan Babacan, 3 Hakan Kadir Balta, 5 Hakan Calhanoglu, 7 Gokhan Gonul, 8 Selçuk Inan, 9 Cenk Tosun, 14 Oguzhan Ozyakup, 15 Mehmet Topal (captain), 16 Ozan Tufan, 18 Caner Erkin, 20 Volkan Sen.
Substitutes 13 Ismail Koybasi for Erkin 70, 22 Mahmut Tekdemir for Ozyakup 70, 10 Olcay Sahan for Calhanoglu 78, 22 Yasin Oztekin for Sen 80, 19 Mevlut Erdinc for Tufan 87.

Goal Calhanoglu 13
Bookings Ozyakup, Topal
Head coach Fatih Terim
Referee Deniz Aytekin (Germany)
Attendance 44,866

FACTS & FIXTURES

UP AND COMING FIXTURES

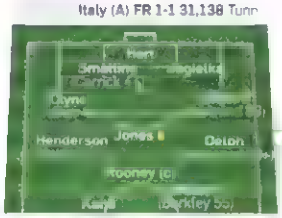
ENGLAND v PORTUGAL Thurs 2 June 2016 | ENGLAND v RUSSIA Sat 11

England have not lost a pre-tournament friendly since 1990, when Uruguay beat the Three Lions 2-1 at Wembley.

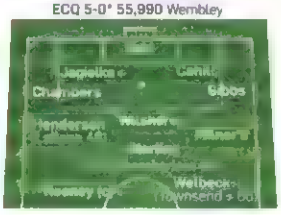
Key: scorer, *own goal for England, P penalty shootout, caution, sent off

08.09.14 Switzerland (A)
ECQ 2-0 35,500 Basel

Italy (A) FR 1-1 31,138 Turin



09.10.14 San Marino (H)
ECQ 5-0* 55,990 Wembley



Republic of Ireland (A)
FR 0-0 43,486 Dublin

12.10.14 Estonia (A) ECQ 1-0 10,195 Tallinn

.4.06.. Slovenia (A) ECQ 3-2 15,798 ...bljana

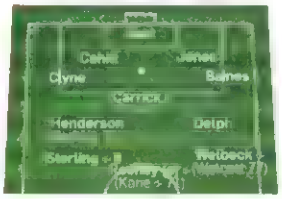
15.11.14 Slovenia (H) ECQ 3-1 82,305 Wembley

06.. San Marino (A) ECQ 6-0* 4,378 Serravalle

18..14 Scotland (A) FR 3-1 55,000 Glasgow

.. Switzerland (H) ECQ 2-0 75,751 Wembley

*03.15 Lithuania (H)
ECQ 4-0 83,671



.. Estonia (H) ECQ 2-0 75,427 Wembley

ENGLAND HAVE PLAYED AUSTRALIA SIX TIMES BEFORE. THEY HAVE WON THREE, DRAWN TWO AND LOST ONE.

LOST 1

This is the longest gap between the two sides meeting, w13 years, three months and 15 days.

13

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME ENGLAND HAVE PLAYED AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT. THEY BEAT BELGIUM 2-1 IN OCTOBER 1999 AND TURKEY 2-0 IN APRIL 2003.

3

DRAWN 2

TERRY BUTC... WON HIS FIR... AGAINST AU... IN 1980. HE ... WIN 77, CAPT... ENGLAND FO... THEM, INCLU... THREE GAME... CUP ITALIA ...

EUROPE A... PAST W...

Year
2012
2008
2004
2000
1996
1992
1988
1984
1980
1976
1972
1968
1964
1960

v RUSSIA Sat 11

1ST

June 2016 | ENGLAND v WALES Thurs 16 June 2016

England captain Wayne Rooney made his debut against Australia in 2003, coming on at half-time – along with 10 other players!

This is only the second time England and Australia have played in England The first was in 2003

TERRY BUTCHER WON HIS FIRST CAP AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN 1980. HE WENT ON TO WIN 77, CAPTAINING ENGLAND FOR SEVEN OF THEM, INCLUDING HIS LAST THREE GAMES AT WORLD CUP ITALIA '90.

WON 3

In 15 matches against teams from the Asian Football Confederation, England have won eight, drawn six and lost one.

EUROPEAN CHAMP PAST WINNERS

Year	Winner
2012	Spain
2008	Spain
2004	Greece
2000	France
1996	Germany
1992	Denmark
1988	Netherlands
1984	France
1980	West Germany
1976	Czechoslovakia
1972	West Germany
1968	Italy
1964	Spain
1960	Soviet Union

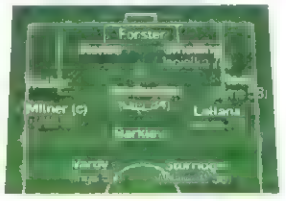
15 Lithuania (A) ECQ 3-0* 5,051 Vilnius

Spain (A) FR 0-2 29,500 Alicante

France (H) FR 2-0 71,223 Wembley

Germany (A) FR 3-2 71,413 Berlin

Netherlands (H) FR 1-2 82,835 Wembley



Turkey (H) FR 2-1 44,868 Manchester

EURO 2016 GROUPS

GROUP A
- Albania
- France
- Romania
- Switzerland

GROUP B
- England
- Russia
- Slovakia
- Wales

GROUP C
- Germany
- Northern Ireland
- Poland
- Ukraine

GROUP D
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Turkey

GROUP E
- Belgium
- Italy
- Republic of Ireland
- Sweden

GROUP F
- Austria
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Portugal

ENGLAND'S FIXTURES

8pm 11 June v Russia (Marseille
2pm 16 June v Wales (Lens)
8pm 20 June v Slovakia (Saint-Etienne

ROUND OF 16

1 RU A v RU C (2pm 25 June
2 W B v 3rd A/C/D (5pm 25 June)
3 W D v 3rd B/E/F (8pm 25 June)
4 W A v 3rd C/D/E (2pm 26 June
5 W C v 3rd A/B/F (5pm 26 June)
6 W F v RU E (8pm 26 June
7 W E v RU D (5pm 27 June
8 RU B v RU F (8pm 27 June)

QUARTER-FINAL

QF1 1 v 3 (8pm 30 June)
QF2 2 v 6 8pm 1 July
QF3 5 v 7 8pm 2 July
QF4 4 v 8 8pm 3 July)

SEMI-FINAL

SF1 QF1 v QF2 (8pm 6 July
SF2 QF3 v QF4 (8pm 7 July)

FINAL

SF1 v SF2 (8pm 10 July)

MUM
WIFE
SISTER
FRIEND
TheFA
breast cancer care
OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER 2014-16

Road to France
EURO 2016

ENGLAND

Shirt No.		Start	Sub			Club
	Fraser Forster					
	Joe Hart					
	Tom Heaton					
	Ryan Bertrand					
	Gary Cahill					
	Nathaniel Clyne					
	Danny Rose					
	Chris Smalling					
	John Stones					
	Kyle Walker					
	Dele Alli					
	Ross Barkley					
	Fabian Delph					
	Eric Dier					
	Danny Drinkwater					
	Jordan Henderson					
	Adam Lallana					
	James Milner					
	Raheem Sterling					
	Andros Townsend					
	Jack Wilshere					
	Harry Kane					
	Marcus Rashford					
	Wayne Rooney					
	Daniel Sturridge					
	Jamie Vardy					

Manager: Roy Hodgson

AUSTRALIA

Club			Sub	Start	Shirt No.

Adam Federici
Mitchell Langerak
Mathew Ryan
Aziz Behich
Milos Degenek
Josh Risdon
Brad Smith
Alex Wilkinson
Bailey Wright
Craig Goodwin
Chris Ikonomidis
Brad Inman
Jackson Irvine
Mile Jedinak
Massimo Luongo
Stefan Mauk
Matt McKay
Mark Milligan
Aaron Mooy
Tom Rogic
Tomi Juric
Robbie Kruse
Jamie Maclaren

Head coach: Ange Postecoglou

KICK-OFF 7.45 PM
DATE 27.05.16
VENUE STADIUM OF LIGHT
COMPETITION FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

LAST FOUR v AUSTRALIA

12 Feb 2003	**England** v Australia	L	1-3	Friendly
1 Jun 1991	Australia v **England**	W	0-1	Friendly
19 Jun 1983	Australia v **England**	D	1-1	Friendly
15 Jun 1983	Australia v **England**	W	0-1	Friendly

SCORERS

ENGLAND

AUSTRALIA

All squad details correct as of **23.05.2016**

Road to France
EURO 2016

LAST WORD

Tonight's friendly will serve to foster a feeling of togetherness in the England team ahead of the Euros

It is the time of year when even the most cynical of fans cannot help but be excited. Here we are, just days from the start of a major tournament, and our national team looks as youthful and dynamic as it has in some time.

I'd like to think that one day people might say the same about The Football Association, and I am encouraged by the work under way to rebuild the organisation. Rebuild is a word we chose carefully. It is not a spit and polish, but a total overhaul of what we do, the success of our England teams and providing better support to grassroots football our priorities.

We want England to win at tournaments – and I firmly believe that success at international level helps all levels of the game. But we are also determined to build from the grassroots up, and, at the start of this season, committed to invest a record £260 million over the next four years, with the aim of improving facilities and coaching in every village, town and city in the country.

We are also determined to make our England teams accessible to everyone, whether that's by playing games such as this one at the many fantastic club stadiums we have in this country, or through cutting ticket prices and increasing allocations for matches at Wembley. Taking a wider view, we have recognised the need to improve our customer service and drive towards ensuring that every interaction we have – whether through ticket sales, personal development or administration – is a positive experience.

Communicating better will always bring good results. Roy's preparation for the Euros has been assisted by clubs agreeing to let players join up with England two weeks ahead of the mandatory release date. This not only gives Roy and his staff longer to work with the players, but also helps foster a togetherness and a spirit that will be crucial to the team's performance this summer.

I see similar qualities in our opponents tonight, Australia, who are making great progress under Ange Postecoglou, winning the AFC Asian Cup last year. They beat us in our last meeting at Upton Park in 2003 – when Wayne Rooney made his debut – and I have never seen an England-Australia sporting event that has been anything other than fiercely contested.

Another of the benefits of taking the England team around the country is the opportunity to work more closely with individual clubs. Sunderland have been great partners in staging this fantastic occasion, and they seem to be making progress on the pitch too. Their women's team have been particularly impressive, with Beth Mead recently voted PFA Women's Young Player of the Year for her scoring exploits in The FA WSL, while Sam Allardyce's men showed real skill and courage to seal their place in the Premier League for another season.

If previous England matches in the north-east are anything to go by, then Roy and his team can count on fantastic and knowledgeable support this evening. I know how much the fans mean to the players, and how much your encouragement can help them this summer.

Enjoy the game!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
MARTIN GLENN

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Please respect your fellow spectators by refraining from persistent standing. Smoking is not permitted anywhere within the Stadium. In the event of an emergency, you will hear a message over the public address system – listen to the message carefully and follow the instructions of staff members. Evacuation of the Stadium is a last resort and we may ask you to move from your immediate area initially. Please remain vigilant at all times and report anything you consider suspicious to a member of staff. The following acts are offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991, as amended: the throwing of any object within the Ground without lawful authority or excuse; the chanting of anything of an indecent, racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, sexist, homophobic or transphobic nature; the entry onto the playing area or any adjacent area to which spectators are not generally admitted without lawful authority or excuse. Remember that drinking alcohol in view of the pitch is a criminal offence, as is being drunk on the premises. CCTV cameras are in use around and in the Ground and Stadium representatives may use, or pass to the police or any event organiser or other relevant authority, any recordings for use in any proceedings.

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CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
**MARTIN
GLENN**

7

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report anything you
owing of any object
homophobic or
authority or excuse.
around and in the Ground
any proceedings.

TheFA.com

#TOGETHER FOR ENGLAND